Bird Notes

VOL. I.

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BEING THE JOURNAL OF

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

AND THE

NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD

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VOLUME I.

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Foreign Bird Notes

FOR OCTOBER, 1901.

The Foreign Bird Exhibitors' League was founded in May, 1898, and was intended to be a Society of Exhibitors only, concerning itself exclusively with matters connected with Shows. The League did a good work, but it is not my purpose here to record either its successes or its failures—it has now changed its name, and, to some extent, its nature, and as the "Foreign Bird Club" it has before it, I hope and believe, a promising and useful career. It is intended that the exertions of the Club on behalf of Shows shall be at least as energetic as those of the League, but while the League did nothing else, the Club will try to help all interested in foreign birds, whether they exhibit or not, by advising as to treatment in health and sickness, assisting in the identification of rare species, and affording in "Foreign Bird Notes" a medium for the exchange of experiences and mutual encouragement in our hobby.

I very much wish that all this could be done without asking the members for subscriptions—unhappily this cannot be. Our numbers at present are small, and we are greatly increasing our expenses—under these circumstances the Council have reluctantly altered the rule which reduced the subscription to members of the Avicultural Society to 2/6 only. Henceforth everyone is to pay 5/- a year, but this will not be enforced *this year* in the case of those who were members of the League. I think that I may safely say that the subscription will never be raised above 5/-. On the other hand it is just possible, if the membership largely increases, that it may be reduced.

I would venture to remind the members that the Club is in their hands, to make or to mar. If they are energetic in contributing to "Notes," in securing new members, and in other ways helping the work of the Club, it will go strong and be a success—but if the members leave the officers to do all the work, it must be a failure.

In a letter printed on another page, our President propounds once more that insoluble problem of how to secure that the names of species in a Show Catalogue shall agree with the actual exhibits. As he says, it is most provoking to find a Ribbon Finch described as a Gouldian, and so on. I think that such mis-statements might be minimised by allowing the entries to be sent in as late as possible, and by letting exhibitors understand that, if they wished to substitute another bird for that named on the entry form, they should send the Secretary a wire or a post card a day or two before the Show, so that he might correct his proof of the catalogue. And it might be possible to insert a rule providing that (say) one shilling should be deducted from each exhibitor's prize money for every exhibit entered by him, either unnamed, or, in the opinion of the Judge, incorrectly named. But I fear this would be thought too drastic. Will the members help with suggestions ?

It has been suggested that we should have a Challenge Cup, to be competed for at the February Crystal Palace Show—and to be won three times before becoming the property of the winner. I shall be very pleased to receive subscriptions.

I shall be glad to receive from members reports on the foreign classes at local Shows, for publication in "Notes."

Members who wish Medals to be offered for competition at Shows in which they are interested, should either apply to me themselves or get the Show Secretary to do so—and the application should give particulars of the classification provided for foreign birds and state the name of the Judge. In the absence of an application, some deserving Shows may escape the notice of the Council, and, in any case, it scarcely comports with the dignity of the Club to offer its medals before they are asked for !

The Autumn Show of the L. & P. O. Society will be held at the Crystal Palace on November 5, 6, & 7, 1901. Schedules from the Hon. Sec., Mr. J. W. Ramsden, 63, Heron Road, Herne Hill, S.E. There are seven classes for foreign birds including a limit class. Mr. Swaysland is to be the Judge, and two of our Club's Medals are offered for competition.

I want each member to do his or her share of work for the Club—and I therefore ask everyone to secure at at least one new member, and also to write something for these pages. Literary skill is not required, and the roughest notes will be valued provided they add to our knowledge, originate or continue a discussion on an interesting subject, or record the experiences of a careful observer. Where desired, I shall be pleased to put such notes into readable form. Descriptions of bird-rooms and aviaries and their inmates are, I think, always appreciated by readers. Articles and correspondence on treatment and other practical points are also greatly valued. Long descriptions of plumage should be avoided—for the simple reason that hardly anyone will read them. It will be well to bear in mind that this is a popular, and not a semi-scientific, publication.

It is intended that in future "Foreign Bird Notes" shall be issued about the middle of the month. I expect that the next number will be in the hands of the members on or before the 15th of November—but if it should be late I trust they will understand that the delay is unavoidable. I hope to be able to publish in that number full reports on the foreign classes at the Palace Show.

The question "How to encourage the breeding of new species," which Mr. Quin raises in our correspondence pages, is one of great interest. It requires to be fully discussed and considered from all points of view. There is always the danger, in a small Club like ours, that we should become a "mutual admiration Society." I will at present say nothing further on the subject, except that in any scheme which may beadopted, I think the breeder of hybrids should not be left out in the cold.

HORATIO R. FILLMER,
Hon. Sec. FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

MY EXPERIENCE OF THE ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK.

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Hedymeles ludovicianus*) is an inhabitant of North America, where he is much prized as a cage-bird, both on account of his pink, white and black plumage and of his song. Unfortunately they are but rarely imported into this country, but if, as seems probable, they become more common among our dealers, they will soon take the first place in the list of our Foreign cage birds. Till two years ago I had never seen one alive in this country, though they seem to have been fairly well known on the Continent, where the Cult of the foreign bird is a much bigger thing than it is with us, and where the pick of the market seems to go. However, lately these and many other uncommon foreigners have made their appearance in small numbers, and we will hope that the demand will be sufficient to justify their further importation, and also their reduction in price.

In the summer of 1899 I bought my first Rose-breast, a cock out of a lot of about 12 just arrived. I think he cost me 30/- and as he did not live till the autumn, this cannot be considered to have been a good speculation: but this lot was the first I had ever seen and I was tempted by their rarity and what I knew of them from their admirers in America. I had bad luck in picking out a bird already out of health, which soon sickened and died before he had got over the effects of his long ocean journey.

With my next I have been more successful; he was bought for 20/- in June last, and now a better and more healthy bird I have never seen. He was bare on his head, very wild, and dirty. at first, as all these birds are when newly imported, and no wonder; a dozen fresh-caught specimens of such powerful birds, cribbed up for three or four weeks in a wooden store-cage, naturally have every opportunity of knocking themselves about.

If only they were imported in separate cages (as Nonpareils generally are, which only fetch one quarter the price of a Grosbeak, though for them, it is true, there is a regular demand) or at least in a canvas-topped store cage, they would arrive in good condition, and would be much more saleable, as they would attract attention by their good looks and bright colour, and not only by the violence of their movements and the scantiness of their plumage. But I must leave the possibilities of improvement in our present methods of importing birds, and return to my subject.

Food. As a dealer said to me the other day, "They will eat anything," and if put to it I believe they would. No seed seems to come amiss. Mine has canary as a staple, but his favourites are hemp, sunflower and oats; he also samples millet and niga (I hope the admission that my birds are allowed the "poisonous" niga will not bring down universal execration on my head). Soft food he never touches, but is very keen on spiders and mealworms; (my first ate soaked ants' eggs and also preserved yolk of egg occasionally). Just now he has some elderberries daily or a piece of apple, and earlier in the summer he took his share of any fruit in its season. But in this line he has his likes and dislikes: most fruits wild or cultivated he is very fond of, but will not touch haws or sorrel, and though very fond of red currants absolutely refused black ones; bananas also he does not like. Daily I also give him a little green food, usually grass or watercress. He bathes regularly and thoroughly every morning as soon as the water-trough is filled.

As a singer this bird is much prized by American writers. One author describes the Rose-breasted Grosbeak as, "a most melodious and indefatigable warbler, frequently . . . . . passing a great part of the night in singing, with all the varied and touching notes of the nightingale"; he considers him only second to the Mocking bird among American songsters. Another description of its song is "as loud and powerful as that of a Thrush." I can corroborate the above to a certain extent. My bird has since his moult treated me every evening to an exhibition of his vocal powers, and there is no doubt about the power and unwearied nature of his song; to me however it certainly does not suggest the Nightingale, and I can hardly call it a warble. The word "shout" seems to describe it more accurately. He simply stands up to his work, stretched out on tiptoe on the top perch, and, with wide open beak, pours out a stream of hurrying, whistled, and certainly thrush-like notes. To me it suggests a louder and more varied edition of the Virginian Cardinal's song, and perhaps this is the Nightingale to which the writer quoted refers.

I can give no personal experience of the breeding of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, as I have never even seen a hen (a plain brown and yellowish bird with no red breast); but Dr. Russ was successful in breeding it and in his book is a full description of the nest and eggs.

I keep my birds in a small aviary with Budgerigars, Grey Cardinals and Saffron Finches, and with these he agrees perfectly. For a time he had some smaller birds with him as well, and never did them any harm, but I do not think it would be safe to keep such a powerful bird for any length of time with the weaker ones, though the bird seems very good tempered, and never retaliated, even when attacked by a particularly spiteful Green Singing Finch which used to share the aviary, till he made himself so objectionable that I had to remove him. I think that this bird, like Red Cardinals and Bullfinches, can hardly be kept too cold. His present aviary faces East, and here all the Northern foreign birds I have kept do much better than in a much larger aviary which faces South and is certainly too hot for them in summer.

If kept in a cage the same thing must be remembered: a large box cage, and when tame a waggon, in a cold room, would suit this bird well, and, in a fortnight or so, he would be tame enough to let out for his bath and a daily fly in the room.

In all respects I can thoroughly recommend the bird to any one wanting an interesting and really intelligent bird-pet. He very soon gets tame, is easily fed, his colouring is striking, and his song cheerful, even if not all it has been said to be. In addition, if a pair are by any chance obtained, there is every hope of their breeding and rearing young.

E. HOPKINSON, M.A., M.B., (Oxon).

FOREIGN BIRD KEEPING: AN APPRECIATION.

Amid the many hobbies open to home-loving men and women, it is doubtful if there are any containing a greater amount of quiet pleasure, and real knowledge, than that of keeping foreign birds; affording, as it does, the society of some of the most beautiful and fairy-like of God's creation, and insensibly imparting to one an interest in various countries and peoples, which might otherwise remain a mere name.

Whenever I hear news from abroad, my thoughts invariably whisper "that is where the Whydahs dwell," or the Nonpareils, or the Zebra Finches, as the case may be, and I feel that I, too, have a share in the welfare of that country, on account of its having been the birthplace and home of my little feathered friends, now strangers in a strange land; but nevertheless tended and cared for with all the affection a lover of birds delights to lavish on them.

What a wonderful world awaits the man who indulges in this charming pursuit! A world unknown before, and but vaguely thought of, the beauties of which seem more like a fair dream than a living reality; and it is a world that leads us forward to learn some of the secrets of Nature from her own children, and draws us closer to the mighty Creator of all things.

And this bird world of ours never palls. Every day fresh pleasures await us; new colors delight the eye, sweet notes charm the ear, and graceful motions silently thank us for our labour of love.

For surely it is a labour of love? Our pets appeal to us by their very helplessness and dependence on our efforts to supply their every need, and there is no surer way to the human heart than through this simple channel.

No one who has kept birds doubts that they understand and appreciate the kindness of their owners, and their actions plainly show the close observer that they know the hand which feeds them and cares for them, and recognise in his voice the voice of a friend and protector.

One of the greatest pleasures connected with this hobby, is to watch the gradual change of colour in the feathers of the Weavers, Whydahs, and other birds who have a distinct summer plumage.

It is a great fascination to me to choose, from among a number of these birds, those I think to be cocks, though it requires a keen eye and long experience to detect the minute signs which differentiate the sexes when out of colour. And then come the weeks of waiting and watching, and one is perhaps beginning to despair, when one day you will catch a glimpse of a bright feather just peeping out from between the brown.

Then at last your keenest hopes are realised, and you are perfectly satisfied—for the time being—for as surely as day follows the night, so surely does this pleasant occupation urge the ornithologist on to conquer fresh worlds. Where this will ultimately lead him it is impossible to say, for there is no limit to an enthusiast's ambition.

It may be that one's desire is to breed a certain species, so a pair is obtained and suitably provided for. How often, then, one watches the various actions of the birds: the flutterings to and fro in search of something, the apparent carelessness, or other wiles, often displayed as a protective measure against human eyes, and after many yeas and nays, the pleasant anticipations indulged in, when the nest is at last finished, and the eggs are laid.

Has not nearly every bird keeper experienced these quiet though none the less happy feelings, and with what genuine delight does he welcome the advent of the young lives thus given into his care ? It is a moot point whether the parents or their owner is the more proud of the wee helpless mites, whose very weakness is a security for their welfare.

No matter how spacious our aviary may be, we must always bear in mind that we are depriving our birds of their liberty, and in return for taking this precious possession from them, a possession for which men have fought from time immemorial, we ought to use all the means in our power to see that at least they want for nothing in other respects. Clean and varied food, plenty of fresh water for drinking and bathing purposes (the latter not too deep, for I have known birds to be drowned), gravel strewn over the floor with a liberal hand, suitable perches, little swings, and hanging branches—all these not only tend to brighten their lives. but also to lengthen them, for it is reasonable to suppose that the vital power is sustained and increased by natural and cheerful surroundings.

Study your birds' comfort as you would your own—aye more, for you are the guardian of all the little lives in your aviary ; lives which are as precious to them, as are our own to ourselves. And if at any time, or through any cause, we may be apt to be careless of their well-being, let us think of those beautiful lines :—

Hold! Hold !
We cannot give the life we take,
Nor reunite the heart we break.

And remember it is as easy to deprive our pets of life by neglect, as it is to take it by force.

J. A. Swan.

A HUMMING BIRD IN LONDON.

Some few years ago, in the autumn, I was hard up for mealworms. I had several rather valuable insectivorous birds, some of which were moulting, and I knew that unless I could tempt their appetites with those stimulating dainties I ran a serious risk of losing them. But mealworms were just the very things I could not get for love or money. I was living then in London, so I journeyed down to the East end to see the late Mr. Abrahams and find out if he could supply my wants. I think Mr. Abrahams was able to let me have a hundred or two, but I know he could not spare me many as he was short of mealworms himself. One hundred mealworms do not go very far, so after leaving Mr. Abrahams' shop I wandered about the neighbourhood in the hope of lighting upon a bird shop where I could obtain an adequate supply of the juicy worm. I found at last a very small shop in a very poor street (the shop was dirty and dingy even beyond the wont of East-end bird shops) where my wants could be supplied. I was served by a shrivelled-up little old man, bent nearly double with rheumatism, who gave me the impression of being—well, more than eccentric. I asked him politely if he had any mealworms for sale. "Mealworms!" he replied, "Mealworms! What do you want with mealworms?" I humbly explained that I had at home a few dozen birds which ate them readily, but that I did not require them for my own consumption. He looked at me suspiciously and grumbled to himself, but proceeded to get down a large tin of worms and measure out a quart for me. There was not much in the shop, but I noticed a cage of Tanagers, among which were one or two rare ones, and I began talking to the old man about them. When he found that I really knew something about birds he thawed, and I soon managed to draw him out, and discovered he had a rare knowledge of birds, and, according to his account, had been marvellously successful in keeping some delicate kinds. Some of his ideas as to food, etc., were diametrically opposed to what we are taught by our pastors and masters in aviculture; his manner was brusque to a degree; and he showed a curious irritability and excitability; but he *did* know a lot about birds, there was no disputing that.

At last he said to me suddenly, "I will show you something worth seeing. Come this way." He took me up a rickety flight of stairs into the front room over the shop. The room was full of all kinds of lumber, but the only bird cage in it which I could see was a large waggon-shaped cage on a table in the window. In this cage, on a very thin perch, was a tiny bird of the most dazzling metallic green. The wings seemed dark brown; there was a white patch at the back of the neck; and some white in the tail. The beak was very long and slender. When we went near the cage, the little creature left the perch, and hovered in the air in the cage. The wings moved so rapidly as to be invisible except as an indistinct blurr in the air.

I am not an extravagant man in most things, but a very rare bird is a sore temptation to me. I no sooner saw this gem than I burned to possess it. Its owner named his price and stuck to it, and I had to agree to his terms. I began to wonder how my purchase was to be transferred from the large cage to a travelling cage. "You leave that to me," said the crusty vendor of birds. He found a box cage, and a small net. I suggested that it would be wise to close the window before he opened the cage door, and was of course severely snubbed for my pains. He opened the cage door and introduced the net, but before he had time to try to catch the bird there was a flash of metallic colour towards the window, a shrill, whirring whistle, and then nothing! Well, nothing but language.

I found it advisable to leave at once. (No, I didn't forget the mealworms.) I hailed a passing cab at the end of the street and was some distance on my way home before I remembered that I did not know the name of the old bird-dealer, nor the name of the street in which he lived. It was some months before I had an opportunity of going east again, and I then hoped to renew my acquaintance with him, but, oddly enough, I could not find the shop, and could not even feel sure about the street. RANDOLPH QUIN.

BIRD SEED.

Canary and Millet are the two principal seeds for foreign birds, and it is most important that each should be good of its kind. American and Australian birds prefer canary seed, and African and Indian birds like millet seed best, and they are chiefly fed on these respective seeds before and during importation. The small light-brown millet seed, like the spray millet usually sold, is expensive, but very useful. It is always wise to give newly imported birds a liberal supply of this. In fact, I believe that if it were always used small foreign finches would thrive much better than they generally do.

Next in value to this small brown millet (usually called Indian millet) is the best white millet. It should be very white, the whiter the better. But sometimes the very white is difficult to get.

As to the brown millet, the same size as white, very few birds will eat it unless driven to do so by starvation. It should never be given to foreign birds.

Canary-seed comes from a great many places, but there is nothing like the English, if you can get it. If you have a garden it is easily grown, and can be kept in the ear like spray millet, when it will be a great treat for the birds in the aviary, and valuable for delicate birds. Canary-seed should feel all alive and slippery, when you put your hand into a sackful of it; but if it feels hard and dry it has been artificially dried, and is not good. The use of artificially-dried seed will cause birds to go bald, and bring on surfeit. Be careful to see that the seed is free from mice dirt, which is poisonous to birds. Make sure, also, that the seed is not musty at the ends. The presence of a few brown seeds, which have lost their outer husk, does not matter at all, although the birds seldom eat them. It is very difficult to get good seed without some of these brown seeds. I am not an advocate for very large canary-seed, in fact small plump seed is by far the best.

I have never found canary-seed or millet the worse for being two years old, if it has been well harvested and well kept.

I think the quality of birdseed can be better told by the smell than in any other way. If it smells at all musty or sulphurous, do not use it. Seed is best kept in canvas bags, and should never be left in covered tins for any length of time. WALTER SWAYSLAND.

TIG TIMOTHY.

One of the most amusing birds in my collection is an Orange-flanked Parrakeet, which we have christened Tig Timothy. I bought him two years ago; until then I had always steered clear of parrots and their kind, but one day I was paying a visit to Mr. Jamrach's shop, and was tempted by the tameness of the Orange-flank: at that time you could do what you liked with him, but I am afraid he has been spoilt, as now he seems to do what he likes with me. He is quite fearless, and is never so happy as when walking about you, which you cannot put up with for very long, as he cannot resist sampling your ears or fingers, not maliciously, only out of curiosity.

When he is put back in his cage, he sits holding his head with his beak upward, gently fumbling at it with his claw, thinking hard but saying nothing, in which position he will remain for quite a long time. When I first had him he had both his wings cut (I believe the natives cut them to make their tameness more pronounced)—they have since grown, though it took him a long time, even with a little assistance from me, to moult the stumps. STANLEY M. TOWNSEND.

HINTS FOR BEGINNERS.

It is quite true that foreign cage-birds are very delicate, and it is equally true that they are very hardy. These statements seem absolutely contradictory, but they are not. Foreign birds, *when newly imported*, are delicate, and in the case of some species the percentage of deaths is high. On the other hand, those which have survived for some months after importation are generally hardy, often hardier than our native birds. The beginner often invests in a few newly imported Waxbills, which have been taken out of a warm bird-shop, through the cold of an English March, and turns them into an all-wire cage in a draughty window. Within a fortnight half of them are dead, and their owner is disgusted with the "delicacy" of foreign birds. If he had been able to obtain acclimatized specimens (and willing to pay a consequently higher price) he would have had fewer losses than with the same number of Goldfinches or Bullfinches.

On the whole there is nothing like sand for the bottoms of cages and aviaries—not only in the case of seed-eaters, but for soft-food birds. For Lorikeets and Lories something more absorbent, such as saw-dust or peat litter, is required, and also for Toucans and other large soft-bills. But for small fruit- and insect-eating birds sand is the best. I generally use common builders' sand, and for seed-eaters throw in on the top a handful of fine flint grit, such as is sold for young chicken. Newly imported birds are better at first without grit, which should be given to them cautiously in very small quantities and in the form of rough sea-sand. The reason for this is that the birds have been kept without grit for months, and their internal organs have become soft and are liable to be punctured by sharp flint.

I have always been an advocate for giving the smaller birds a feed by artificial light in long winter evenings.

Some people have emphatically denied the utility of this. I do not know that I, or any one else, ever asserted it to be essential to the life or well-being of the birds—but I do assert it to be an aid in keeping them in health through the winter. My usual plan is to turn on an incandescent gas-light in the bird room for a quarter-of-an-hour or so about nine o'clock. When I turn it out I leave a smaller light burning for a time, to enable the birds to find their perches.

In the feeding of soft-billed birds, I really think the *consistency* of the food is quite as important as the materials of which it is composed. Birds will not thrive on a pasty mess, however rich it may be in ants' eggs and other good things. I believe this is the reason why birds often thrive better on one of the advertised foods sold in tins than they do on home-made food, although the bought food may contain a large proportion of German paste, crushed hemp, and other things of more than doubtful digestibility. It is never wise to moisten food by the addition of water, as one is so very apt to make it too wet. It is far better to soften it by the addition of boiled potato or grated carrot — though I much prefer lard or dripping for the purpose. If you use potato or carrot, you must be careful to throw away the leavings from the previous days feeding, and put the fresh food in a clean pan. But the food mixed with grease will keep good for weeks.

Some people imagine that if a bird be fat it must be in good health, and that the fatness is proof its having been fed on suitable food. Fatness is no more a sign of health in a bird than in a man—and our aim should be to keep our birds in good condition but *not* fat. A fat bird is seldom healthy, and always liable to go off in a fit. In the case of soft-billed birds, excessive fatness is often caused by feeding on bread and other farinaceous food.

HORATIO R. FILLMER.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER BOX.

SUBSTITUTED ENTRIES.

SIR,—I should like the opinion of the Members of the Club on the following :—

At a Show where, let us say, Class x is for birds smaller than a Java Sparrow, an exhibitor states on his entry form "pair of Cordon Bleus," and the entry is so described in the catalogue. But at the Show the entry is represented by a pair of Fire Finches. Is that entry to be allowed to compete, and receive a prize? I am strongly against it, as I find it is the practice of certain exhibitors either not to state the species or, when they do, to substitute for the bird named, a totally different one, either because the one they entered does not come up to Show form, or that they have sold it before the day of the Show. I want the opinion of the leading exhibitors, so that it shall be definitely understood whether such a thing is to be permitted. Personally, I think it is decidedly wrong.

C. B. D'EYNCOURT CHAMBERLAIN.

A QUESTION OF IDENTITY.

SIR,—Can you or any of your readers help me to identify the birds in the following list from Dr. Russ' "Die Fremdländischen Stubenvögel"? The numbers refer to the pages, and the names are those used in Vol. I. of that work.

p. 524. Der graubäuchige Kernbeisser (*Coccothraustes poliogaster*).
p. 523. Der brasilische K. (*C. brasiliensis*).
p. 523. Der grüne K. (*C. viridis*).
p. 474. Der olivengrüne Ammersperling (*Fringilla olivacea*).
p. 475. Der stille A. (*F. silens*).
p. 475. Der gelbschnäblige A. (*F. flavirostris*).
p. 475. Der braunäckige A. (*F. brunneinucha*).
p, 478. Der gelbkehlige A. (*F. flavigularis*).

E. HOPKINSON.

GREY PARROTS.

SIR,—My favourite pet is the Grey Parrot. I often buy one when I can get them for 10/6 or 15/- each, and during the last 15 years I have had about a dozen. Alas, most of them soon went to the land from whence no traveller returns, in spite of judicious feeding and every care. But one which I had two years ago from Mr. Cross is still in perfect health and plumage, and has developed into a champion talker, learning fresh words every day. This one has repaid me for all my losses and trouble.

This year I have been presented with a young one (quite a baby) by the Mayor of Sierra Leone, who brought it from Africa under his personal care.

I think it is a much commoner thing for Parrots to lay eggs in cages, than is generally supposed. Several of my friends in St. John's Wood have Parrots which laid. I have in my collection eggs of the Grey Parrot, Griffin's Cockatoo, and Rosy Cockatoo. JAMES STOREY.

HOW TO ENCOURAGE THE BREEDING OF NEW SPECIES.

SIR,—Considering the number of people who keep, and try to breed, foreign birds, it is strange that a comparatively small number of species have hitherto been successfully reared in this country. The finches (using the word in its widest sense), are no doubt the easiest to breed, and taking these alone I believe the following list of those which have bred in Britain is almost exhaustive. Green Avadavat, Common Avadavat, African Fire-finch, Cordon Bleu, Lavender Finch, St. HelenaWaxbill, Aurora Finch, Parrot Finch, Gouldian Finch, Parson Finch, Long-tailed Grass-finch, Masked Grass-finch, Diamond Finch, Ribbon Finch, Red-headed Finch, Bicheno's Finch, Cherry Finch, African Silverbill, Chestnut Finch, Java Sparrow, Magpie Mannikin, Bronze Mannikin, Dwarf Finch, Teydean Chaffinch, Desert Trumpeter Bullfinch, Yellow-throated Rock Sparrow, Alario

Finch, Green-singing Finch, Grey-singing Finch Saffron Finch, Virginia Cardinal, Red-crested Cardinal, Green Cardinal, Nonpareil, Indigo Bunting, Moorish House Bunting. Now this leaves a number of common species which have never been bred, and an innumerable host of rare ones.

I should like to see our Club doing something to encourage the breeding of species never bred before—but what form such encouragement should take is a difficult question. It is well to bear in mind that the man who succeeds in breeding a rare bird is not by any means necessarily a more skilful aviculturist than the man who fails. If one is prepared to devote a large outdoor aviary to a single pair, and provide, for such birds as require it, an unlimited supply of insect food, the breeding of almost all species becomes merely a matter of time, patience, and money. The expediency, therefore, of bestowing a special honour or reward for the breeding of *each* new species is open to question.

Would it not be possible for the Club to award a medal, or other substantial token of merit, to those who have, in the opinion of the Council, done most for the advancement of aviculture during the year? The number of such awards would, of course, have to be restricted, say to not more than two a year, or even one. I doubt whether they should be limited to members of the Club; on the whole I think not, but non-members ought to be required to pay the cost of the medal before receiving it. The medal would probably always be awarded to someone who had bred a new species, but the Council would take into consideration the difficulties which the breeder had contended against, in deciding between several claims.

There may be objections, not apparent to me, to this suggestion. I commend it, for what it is worth, to the consideration of the Council of the Foreign Bird Club.

RANDOLPH QUIN.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB MARKET.

The charge for advertisements is one penny for each bird named. Advertisements must be concisely worded, and clearly written on a separate sheet of paper, with the name and address of advertiser at the foot. The fee must in all cases be prepaid in stamps. The Hon. Sec. is authorised to decline Advertisements which he considers undesirable. Advertisements for the NOVEMBER issue must reach the Hon. Sec. not later than 11th November.

Grey Parrot with red tail, splendid talker, tame, in perfect plumage, £6.
JAMES STOREY, 7, Blenheim Terrace, N.W.

Wanted—Bound volumes of "Avicultural Magazine," 1897-8-9 and 1900, 5/- a volume offered.
E. HOPKINSON, 9 Holywell, Oxford.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

NEW MEMBER ELECTED.

MR. WILLIAM EATON PARKER,
Beacon Farm, Frodsham.

NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED.

Mr. RANDOLPH QUIN, 371 Ditchling Road, Brighton.
Mr. J. A. SWAN, 87 Lower Kennington Lane, S.E.
Mr. E. HOPKINSON, M.A., M.B., Oxon., 9, Holywell, Oxford.
Miss PETROCOCHINO, 72 ,Westbourne Terrace, W.
Mr. H. K. PICARD, 10, Sandwell Crescent, W. Hampstead.

Proposed by the HON. SEC.

MEDAL RULES.

The following Rules as to Medals have been passed by the Council :

1. No member shall win more than two medals in a season, one silver and one bronze, or more than one medal at the same Show.

2. Bronze medals shall not be given at Shows where less than four classes for foreign birds are provided. Silver medals shall not be given where there are less than six classes. No medals shall be given at any Show unless the Judge of the foreign classes be approved by the Club.

At the L. and P. O. Show in November, a silver medal will be offered for the best foreign bird, and a bronze medal for the second best (the winner of the silver medal excluded).

Foreign Bird Notes

FOR NOVEMBER, 1901.

THE reception which "FOREIGN BIRD NOTES" has been accorded by the bird-loving public is very encouraging, and, as will be seen on another page, the Club has obtained a great increase in membership. All this points to the fact that the Club, and "Notes," are supplying a real want.

At the same time, I feel that I have almost exhausted the possible new members to be found among aviculturists known to me—and in future, if the Club is to continue to grow, the members must themselves find and introduce new ones. I therefore repeat what I said last month and "ask everyone to secure at least one new member."

Last month I also asked everyone "to write something for these pages," and once again I would repeat that petition also. Those who cannot do more, will be of real help by asking questions.

I must ask our non-exhibiting members to have patience with so much space being this month devoted to matter relating to Shows. We are in the thick of the Show season, and "Notes" for November, December, and February must necessarily be largely occupied with Show reports. But after all these are only three months out of the twelve, and Shows will be kept in the background in the other issues.

It has been suggested that some of our members would be willing to contribute to "Notes" if they could do so under a *nom de plume*, but hesitate to send anything for publication over their own signature. If there are any such, they are, of course, at liberty to conceal their identity when writing for these pages, by using an assumed name.

Some "up-to-date" person has proposed that the title of "Foreign Bird Notes" should be changed to "Living Birds." What do the members think of this?

I shall be pleased to send some extra copies of "Notes" to any of our members who would like to have them for distribution among people likely to join the Club.

I am sure that our highly-esteemed fellow member Mr. Camps has the sincere and hearty sympathy of all of us in the bereavement he has sustained through the death of his father, Mr. Drage Camps.

This season, the beginning of winter, re-awakens the interest of many of us in the difficult question of warming the bird-room or aviary. Will each member let me know the method of heating (if any) which he or she adopts, and its success or otherwise? We can then compare notes.

Inexperienced exhibitors sometimes have a difficulty in deciding which classes their birds should be entered in. I should be very pleased to help in such cases. I cannot, of course, undertake any responsibility for the result of my advice, for some Show Schedules are so queerly worded that the question of "which class" becomes a matter of opinion and not of fact.

As a large proportion of the members of the Foreign Bird Club are also members of the Avicultural Society, I should like to try to make plain the attitude of the Club towards the Society. Some of our members have expressed a fear that the Club will injure the Society. I do not think it will, for the reason that its aims and objects are different. The Avicultural Society, whatever it may once have been, now claims to be a scientific society, and it adopts towards Shows an attitude of deprecation, if not of veiled hostility. The Foreign Bird Club does not pretend to be in any sense a scientific society, and aims at nothing more than the mutual help and encouragement of the members in their hobby of bird-keeping. And the Club does all in its power to encourage Shows. Having therefore different views and purposes, the Club has no desire or intention of competing with the Avicultural Society, or of drawing members from it. By all means let everyone belong to both the Club and the Society, if they will.

But while I feel obliged to insist upon the non-scientific character of the Club, do not let us submit to the imputation of being *un*scientific. Nothing unscientific, in the sense of being inaccurate, or contrary to science, will be knowingly admitted into the pages of "Foreign Bird Notes."

HORATIO R. FILLMER,
Hon. Sec. FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

FOREIGN BIRDS AT THE PALACE.

The L. and P.O. Society's Show, held at the Crystal Palace on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of November, 1901, was a very chilly function. On the first day of the Show (the day on which the writer was present) the temperature must have been very low indeed. It is to be feared that a large number of birds succumbed to the severe weather, which was more trying than it might otherwise have been in consequence of the absence of the usual marquee. This time the birds were staged in one of the transepts, and were terribly exposed to the draught.

There were only a little over 60 entries in the foreign classes, and as Mr. H. B. Smith's 18 entries were all absent the number actually competing was but 45.

Class 57.—Parrots. Mrs. Peacock was 1st with a good Grey. Mrs. Cooper 2nd with a nice Leadbeater. Mr. Cushny 3rd with a Blue-eyed Cockatoo, apparently an aged bird and not in the best condition. Mr. Billett was 4th with a Blue-fronted Amazon—one of those spotted with yellow, which dealers call "King birds," and not in first-rate feather. The class also contained another Blue-fronted, of the usual type.

Class 58.—Budgerigars, Love Birds, etc. Cancelled.

Class 59.—Parrakeets. Here were only three entries. First and special, Mr. Hawkins, with a female of the rare Golden-shouldered Parrakeet. Second, Mrs. Cooper, with a good Mealy Rosella. Third, Miss Hilda Patterson, with a Ring-necked Parrakeet, which would have been all the better for a wash.

Class 60.—Waxbills, Mannikins, Combassous, Weavers, and any Whydahs. Mr. Hawkins' Rufous-tailed Grassfinches were 1st, and were also awarded the Silver Medal of the Foreign Bird Club. Strictly, they should have been in the next class. Mrs. Cooper's pair of Pectoral Finches were 2nd (they seemed suffering from the cold). Mr. Hawkins' Wiener's Waxbills were third. Mr. Townsend's very nice Lavender Finches were 4th. V.H.C., Mr. Hawkins' Cordon-bleus. H.C., Mr. Swan's Crimson-crowned Weaver and Mr. Fillmer's Pin-tailed Whydah. C., Mr. Hawkins' Fire Finches. This class also contained a pair of Golden-breasted Waxbills, a pair of Orange-cheeks and a cock Combassou. Eleven entries were present—not a bad class.

Class 61.—A.O.V. Seed-eating Bird. This was the best of the foreign classes, in point of numbers. The first prize was awarded to Mrs. Cooper's Long-tailed Grassfinches, the second to Mr. Hawkins' White-eared Grassfinches, the third to Mr. Hawkins' cock Red Gouldian, the fourth to Mr. Fillmer's Reddish Finch. The Reddish Finch, which was moulting and was consequently not in perfect feather, was also awarded the Bronze Medal of the Club. Mr. Hawkins, having been awarded the Silver Medal, was not eligible for the Bronze one, and the number of other entries belonging to the members was small—but even considering the limited competition, the Reddish Finch scarcely deserved the Medal. Extra fourth, Mr. Babb's Bullfinch. V.H.C., Mr. Goodiff's Ribbon Finches, and Mr. Hawkins' Olive Cuba Finches and Grey-singing Finches. H.C., Mr. Townsend's Gouldian and Mr. Oakey's White Javas. C., Mrs. Skinner's Ortolan Bunting and a pair of rare Doves exhibited by Mr. Parker. This class also contained another Gouldian, another of Mr. Parker's rare Doves, a Diamond Finch, a pair of Double-banded Finches, and two more Bullfinches. The Olive Cuba Finches should have been higher up. Eighteen entries were staged.

Class 62.—Insectivorous. Only eight entries competed, but the quality was good. First, and two specials, Mr. Glasscoe's Masked Wood-swallow. Second, Mr.

Gilroy's Mynah—a fine bird in perfect plumage, but scarcely entitled to priority over two or three others in the class. Third Mr. Glasscoe's Sacred Kingfisher—a lovely bird, but not looking very well. Fourth, Mr. Glasscoe's White Eyebrowed Wood-swallow, which the writer preferred to the first prize-winner, but which no doubt lost place through want of steadiness. V.H.C. Miss Hopwood's Rosy Pastor. H.C. Mr. Townsend's Malabar Green Bulbul, a nice bird, but not in quite perfect feather. C. Mr. Housden's Rails—a pair of rare and beautiful birds which should have been among the prize winners. It is understood that the Judge did not consider them to be cage-birds, but we cannot find that the competition was expressly restricted to cage-birds by the Schedule, and by giving them a card the Judge practically admitted them to competition. This class also contained a Pekin Robin. The Mr. Glasscoe who exhibited some very charming birds in this Class is not Mr. G. D. Glasscoe the member of the Foreign Bird Club, but his brother.

The class for Foreign Goldfinches and the Limit Class were cancelled.

Mr. Swaysland judged all the foreign classes, and the awards were, on the whole, well received. We have pointed out some instances in which we differ from him, but judging is, after all, a matter of opinion, and there was not much to complain of.

The Class for Stuffed Birds contained 30 entries—these did not suffer from the cold. A card announcing that all birds in the Show were fed on somebody's seed looked rather out of place over the stuffed birds.

SOME INTERESTING BIRDS AT THE PALACE SHOW.

The two pairs of Rufous-tailed Finches and Red-faced Finches (Wiener's Waxbill) exhibited were very interesting, as showing the similarity (and at the same time the difference) between these two representatives of the weaving finches; the one from Australia and the other from Tropical Africa. Either of them one would call "little Grey Waxbills with red faces," and I should think that when in bad plumage it must be difficult to distinguish the two species. The former is one of the Australian Grassfinches, but must surely be a connecting link with the true Waxbills; the latter is closely allied to the Aurora- or Red-winged Finch, and their similarity is well shown in the plate in Dr. Butler's "Foreign Finches." I know of no good coloured plate of the Rufous-tailed Finch except that in Gould's "Birds of Australia," but there is an excellent little cut of a pair in Dr. Butler's smaller book on "Foreign Cage Birds."

Two other rare Australian exhibits were the WHITE-EARED and DOUBLE-BANDED FINCHES. The latter, though never very common, are, I think, rarer in the bird market than they were, say, ten years ago; but in the former the reverse is certainly the case, their importation in any number only beginning some four years ago. With their rich brown plumage and yellow beaks they are attractive little birds, and desirable for their own sake apart from their rarity. The Double-banded, or Bicheno's Finch as it is more commonly called, has been repeatedly bred in captivity, and Dr. Butler figures a Bicheno-Zebra Finch hybrid.

The REDDISH FINCH from Southern Brazil is one of the smallest and most attractive of the little South American Grosbeaks (*Spermophila*). In his rufous and black plumage he differs markedly from the majority of the other members of the genus, in which the scheme of colour is mainly a combination of black, grey, and white. The hen, as with other allied species, is a plain olive-brown bird, without any very definite markings. Nothing is known as to its habits in freedom. but in captivity it thrives well on a plain seed diet, is a harmless and inoffensive occupant of an aviary, and has a pretty little song.

The OLIVE CUBA FINCH, another small grosbeak, but apparently allied to the weaving finches, is a small olive-green bird with yellow face and markings. Like its better known relative, the common Cuba Finch, it is rarely imported, and hence is but little known as a cage-bird; a rôle which it seems eminently fitted to play, being easily satisfied as to food, hardy and fairly indifferent to cold, and at the same time willing to go to nest. From the common Cuba-finch, the Olive is distinguished by its yellow chin, which is black right up to the beak in the former. It is found in most of the West Indian Islands, while the former is confined to Cuba. It seems to keep as a rule in small flocks, feeding on various seeds and no doubt also eats a certain number of insects as well, though in captivity the Cuba-finches seem to care little for any addition to their seed.

The most interesting of the Parrots exhibited was a female GOLDEN-SHOULDERED PARRAKEET, which belongs to the same genus as the Many-coloured Parrakeet, but as it inhabits only the northern portions of Australia it is one of the least frequently imported of all the Grass-parrakeets. Like its better known relatives this bird, when wild, lives chiefly on the seeds of various grasses and bush plants, especially those of the flowering reeds. In captivity the whole genus is often delicate at first, and difficult to accustom to the canary and other seeds which in captivity must take the place of its natural food.

THE AUSTRALIAN SACRED KINGFISHER is rather a larger and longer-legged bird than ours, with which, however, it cannot be compared in beauty, as it seems, even when in perfect condition, to lack the absolutely indescribable lustre and brilliance of the European bird. The general arrangement however of the colour is much the same, the upper part being bluish-green and the under surface brown. As it belongs to the more omnivorous division of the Kingfishers it is less unsuited to captivity than is our bird; but the specimen exhibited is the first I have ever seen in a cage, though in the Western Aviary at the Zoo there are (or have been recently) several examples which seem to have thrived there and to eat the soft food supplied readily. In their native country their food consists chiefly of insects, but they also frequent the sea-shore to feed on crabs and the small molluscs. E. HOPKINSON, M.A., M.B. (Oxon.)

A MIXED COLLECTION.

When first I began to keep foreign birds I was more than doubtful as to how the different species would agree together. However, I had only one room which I could give up to the birds, so I was obliged to chance the risk of putting in large and small together—and the result has been a success. My bird room is large and lofty, and this may be the reason that my somewhat varied collection live in peace: for I found after a very short experience that even the most peaceful birds will quarrel if caged in a small space.

In the middle of the room I have a good-sized tree with bare branches, and there are various shrubs in pots; while from the roof hang numbers of husks, suspended by cords or chains. The husks afford endless amusement to the smaller birds, which are *not* supposed to nest in them, as well as to the Budgerigars, for whose especial benefit they are put up. The green Budgerigars breed very freely with me, and I have every hope of being equally fortunate with the yellow variety. Besides the husks, there are tubs fixed on the walls for the Cockatiels, and numerous boxes for the finches, &c.

My happy family in the bird-room consists of the following:—Two pairs each of Cockatiels, Green Budgerigars, Yellow Budgerigars, Grey Java Sparrows, Ribbon Finches, and Bengalese. One pair of White Javas, Grey-singing Finches, Blue Robins, Madagascar Love Birds, Black-headed Mannikins, and Zebra Finches. One Spice-bird and one Indigo-bird. Two cock Cordonbleus, two Weavers, various Waxbills (odd birds), ten or eleven Canaries, a Bullfinch, a Goldfinch, two Redpolls, a Goldfinch mule, and a Great Tit.

My birds, which are all in the best of health, have a good supply of clean water every day in large shallow pans, and all but the Budgerigars and Cockatiels wash thoroughly. I supply egg food daily, also canary seed and hemp mixed, white and spray millet, groats, and plenty of green food, and sometimes an apple.

I have been successful in breeding Bengalese, Zebra-finches, and Ribbon-finches, and, considering that I have not had my birds for more than a year, I think this is encouraging. I have, at the time of writing, a nice brood of young Budgerigars nearly ready to leave the nest. I find the chief difficulty in breeding foreign birds is the delicacy of the hens—recently I have lost, without any apparent cause, three hen Cordon-bleus, and I should be much obliged if any member could supply my wants, in that direction. (*See advt*),

My birds are so used to seeing me amongst them that they pay little or no attention to my coming or going. I have a stove always burning in the cold weather, and the wire cage it is enclosed in forms a favourite roosting place. ISABELLA BELFORD WILSON.

COMMON BIRDS.

I think the average foreign-bird-keeper is too much given to the pursuit of the rare. He does not care to buy any species which he has already possessed. Consequently, having run through the list of the kinds always obtainable, his choice is restricted to the rarer birds, and each year he buys rarer and rarer ones, until he can get nothing which he cares to have, except at a very high price, and, finding his hobby getting too costly, gives it up in disgust. The mistake he makes is in fancying that he has exhausted the possibilities of a species by the possession for a few years of one or two examples.

There is not a single species which has yet been adequately studied. There is any amount of amusement and instruction to be extracted from careful observation of even the commonest bird. Let us take for example the Silverbill. Of this there are two species or varieties, the Indian and the African. Suppose the birdkeeper to purchase a dozen of the African (the common kind) and a few of the Indian. Let him keep some of them in an indoor aviary and some in an outdoor aviary all the year round, and some out-of-doors in summer and in-doors in winter. Let him carefully note under which conditions they thrive best. Let him experiment by feeding some on canary-seed alone, some on white millet-seed alone, some on spray or French millet alone, and some on two or more of these seeds. Let him endeavour to find some certain means of distinguishing the sexes. Let him observe their nesting habits under differing conditions. Let him try the effects of crossing the two kinds, and ascertain whether the progeny are fertile. Let him try whether it be possible by careful selection to improve the size of the race, or perpetuate any interesting "sport" which may occur among his birds. These are a few of the things that he may do with a dozen or two of Silverbills—one of the very commonest of imported foreign finches. Is there not plenty here to occupy the aviculturist for several years?

I have been glad to notice that of late years classes for common birds have been provided at some of the large Shows. This seems to be a move in the right direction and I hope such classes will be well supported. It is very questionable whether it is worth anyone's while to send rare and valuable foreign birds to a Show, and I, for one, have always feared to do so; but common birds we could all send.

RANDOLPH QUIN.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER BOX.

SUBSTITUTED ENTRIES.

SIR,—My object in writing was to get the opinion of those interested, as to whether substituted entries were allowable or not.

If the weight of opinion is in favour of allowing the same, then comes the question whether there should not be, shall we say, a post-entry fee. If, on the contrary, opinion is the other way, the remedy is a very simple one, viz., let the fact be clearly stated on the various entry-forms.

At a Cottagers' Show, in the summer, I was talking to the Judge of the cage bird section, and his idea was as follows: "A man pays for an entry, so he ought to be allowed to show something for his money." My reply was to the effect that his idea was all very well for those of us who have a number of foreign birds, but I wanted to know what should be done in the case of those who, perhaps, had only one pair? "Well, that is their look out," was the answer. Hardly a satisfactory one, to my mind.

I have before me the schedules and entry forms of several of the forthcoming Shows, and without exception I find the following: "Exhibitors must state on entry form the class, *breed*, age. . . ." I therefore take it that it is the duty of the Show Committee to see that the birds sent correspond with the entry form; or at once mark them "wrong entry," and either not stage them, or else draw the Judge's attention to the error.

One Show, having no less than 170 classes, has the following rule:

> "The decision of the Judges will be final, except where mis-representation or breach of the rules is discovered, ... and entry fees and all prizes won by such exhibitor will be forfeited."

Surely a substituted entry would come under the heading of "mis-representation" and, therefore, not be eligible for competition.

C. B. D'EYNCOURT CHAMBERLAIN.

"THE HUMMING BIRD IN LONDON."

SIR,—"A Humming Bird in London" interested me immensely. Is the author of the article quite sure it was a Humming Bird he saw?

I was in Brazil some years ago, from July to the end of November (Rio de Janeiro, Santos, San Paulo, and on a trip up country). Though deeply interested in birds, I saw but three Humming Birds in all that time. I had intended to try and bring some home, but never saw one in a cage, and had no chance of buying or catching one to try my plan of feeding Humming Birds on honey and condensed milk, and keeping them in a large gauze cage, which plan I had thought of trying.

It ought to be possible, yet nobody seems to have succeeded or seriously tried to succeed; and it seems a pity that the only person who is alleged to have succeeded should be apparently lost in the London fog, and his prize bird escape. AUG. F. WIENER.

SUITABLE BIRDS FOR CAGES.

SIR,—I was asked to recommend a few birds that are hardy, and easy to feed and keep indoors in a large cage. As I only keep a few pets, I gave the following names, and shall be pleased to hear if I was correct. For a Crystal Palace cage, say 3ft. long, 3ft. high, and 16 or 18ins. wide.—Pairs of Budgerigars, Madagascar Lovebirds, White or Grey Javas, Ribbon Finches, and Weavers, say four or five pairs.

White Javas I prefer to keep separate from Grey, as they make delightfully tame pets; so in this case I said Javas one pair only, and Saffron-finches to make up. If, however, small birds were required, I suggested a dozen of those Mannikins advertized just now, from 9/- to 15/- per dozen, mixed.

This question is, I expect, often asked by bird lovers, who, from keeping Canaries or British birds, such as Goldfinches and Linnets, would like to go in for a few foreign birds, but fear that too much trouble in feeding and care would follow. Could not a list suitable for large cages indoors, aviaries outdoors, or bird-rooms indoors, be given in "Notes"? I, for one, would be thankful.

W.

THE ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, AND OTHER BIRDS.

SIR,—I am a great admirer of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and have often praised it for its song, in the "Feathered World." It was the finest song-bird of all foreign birds which I have possessed—and the Purple Finch the second best. Both of these species I obtained by accident. For many years I was on the look-out for a live Pine Grosbeak, and not then knowing what a Rose-breasted Grosbeak was, I thought when I saw, in 1879, one advertized by Cross, for 8/-, I would send for it. It was not a Pine Grosbeak, as I had expected, but, as one of my rules is never either to buy or sell on approval, I kept the bird, and was very pleased with its song. I have had many since, but I never gave more than 12/6 each for them. When mine died in the aviary they were always very fat. They were, all but one, quite harmless to other birds. The one exception ate a nest of four Goldfinch-Linnet hybrids when a week old. Brehm writes of this bird: "The song is very rich and pleasing, . . . the Mocking-bird is the only American species that can beat it." The author of "Citizen Bird," write: "Wearing a beautiful rosy shield on his breast, and singing at morning and evening more beautifully even than the very best (American) Robin."

When I obtained a live Pine Grosbeak, I bought it as a Siberian Rose-finch—which it was not. I had got a stuffed Pine Grosbeak, besides books describing it.

I have only seen one live Rose-finch, which was exhibited as a Carmine Bunting.

I have had the Scarlet Grosbeak, but it is of no use for either song, show, or breeding. The Purple-finch is the same colour, and will both sing and breed. The first of my Purple-finches I bought from Cross at 15/- the pair, as "American Linnets," and it was a long time before I knew their proper name. Ultimately, the Rev. H. A. Macpherson informed me, from my description of them, that they were Purple-finches. I bought many afterwards, at 5/- each, from a dealer at Leicester.

J. H. VERRALL.

[It was pointed out to Mr. Verrall that the bird usually known as the Scarlet Rose Finch or Common Rose Finch (*Carpodacus erythrinus* or *Pyrrhula erythrina*) is also called the Scarlet Grosbeak—but that he appeared to distinguish between the Rose Finch and the Scarlet Grosbeak. To this he replied as follows,—]

SIR,—The bird I call the Rose Finch is the same as the Carmine Bunting, one of which was exhibited at a Bird Show at Worthing—the exhibitor is now dead. I have seen a few at C. P. shows. They are described in Bree's Birds of Europe—last edition. The Rose Finch is larger than the Scarlet Grosbeak, but not so long as the Pine Grosbeak. I never possessed a Rose Finch, but my Scarlet Grosbeak was sold to me as a Rose Finch by Charles Jamrach, and I told him that it was wrongly described; he referred me to the late Lord Lilford, who agreed with my description. The Scarlet Grosbeak is very similar in colour and size to the Purple Finch, but is different in habits and has no song.

I believe the Rose Finch retains the rose colour after moulting, which the others do not.

I believe the bird I saw at Worthing had dirty-white cheeks—it was a more squatty bird, like a Common Bunting.

J. H. VERRALL.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

HOW TO HEAT AN AVIARY.

Question.—My aviary is a small conservatory facing south—about 10ft. square. It is getting very cold there at night, although it is fairly warm in the day. I thought of a small hot-water coil heated by gas, but cannot find out who could supply me with it. I should be very glad if you could advise me on the subject, as I cannot buy any birds, or even think of it, unless I can keep them warm.

Answer.—A conservatory is not a very good place for an aviary, as it is so difficult to keep the temperature of it fairly equable.

There is no better method of heating an aviary than by hot-water pipes, and there are some comparatively inexpensive systems in which gas is used for heating the water. Any good hot-water engineer could give you particulars of these. The gas should be outside the aviary.

If you do not want to go the expense of hot-water pipes, you might have a gas stove in which the products of combustion are carried off by a flue. But with these there is always the risk of a down draught, which would drive the fumes into the aviary, or, worse still, extinguish the flame and cause an escape of gas. (Since the introduction of water-gas, the gas supplied from most works is much more poisonous than it used to be). In Clarke's Syphon Gas Stove there is no flue, but the products of combustion are condensed in the stove. It is a very safe, useful, and economical stove, but I think there must be a greater vitiation of the atmosphere from its use than with a properly acting pipe stove.

One of Rippingille's (Oil) Hotwater Stoves for Greenhouses might do very well, if it could be so arranged that the fumes from the lamp should not pass into the aviary. Ordinary oil stoves are very bad, as they simply heat the air by burning it. Moreover, all oil-stoves are dangerous, being apt to go wrong—and when that happens the thick smoke is most destructive to birds, and is quite sufficient to kill half the occupants of an aviary in one night.

If you do not mind the cost, I should strongly advise you to go in for hot-water heating. Probably a coke furnace would cost less in the end than gas as a means of heating the water, but it would require much more attention.

I recently heard of an aviary being heated by a very simple arrangement, which was said to act extremely well. An ordinary fish-tail gas burner, outside the aviary, was burnt under the mouth of a four-inch pipe, which was carried through the aviary and out again. This caused a sufficient current of hot air through the pipe to effectually warm the aviary.

The Clamond Cas Radiator is a new form of gas-stove which seems well worth experimenting with. For the bird-room, it should be used with a flue.

It would be well, while you are about it, to have sufficient heat to keep up a temperature of 60 degrees in any weather, though all but the most delicate birds will do well enough if the temperature keeps over 50 degrees at night—and it might fall considerably below that in exceptionally severe weather, without their suffering any harm. Still, it is as well to *aim* at keeping the temperature a little over 60. Of course, in an *out door* aviary birds will stand much greater cold than they will in one where they get less fresh air.

KEEPING CANARIES WITH FOREIGN BIRDS.

Question.—I have about twenty Canaries—do you think that I could keep them with foreign birds ?

Answer.—You could keep the Canaries very well with small seed-eating foreigners. But it would be well to select foreign birds which will live mainly on canary-seed, as unlimited millet-seed is not good for Canaries. For this reason I should avoid putting Waxbills with the Canaries, as most Waxbills do not care for canary-seed. The Australian Grassfinches, such as Parson and Zebra Finches; the African True Finches, such as the Alario Finch, and the Green and Grey Singing Finch ; and the small South American Grosbeaks, such as the White-throated Finch, would be especially suitable for keepin with Canaries.

SAFFRON FINCHES.

Question.—Is it safe to keep Saffron Finches in an aviary with Waxbills, Avadavats, etc.

Answer.—No, it is not safe, for the Saffron Finch is sometimes murderously spiteful. But, on the other hand if you happen to have peaceable examples of the species, you may keep them for years with tiny birds. but it is a risk.

RED MITE.

Question.—Are foreign birds subject, in confinement, to red mite, as much as Canaries are?

Answer.—In aviaries neither Canaries nor other birds are much troubled with red mite. In cages they are apt to be troublsome unless care is taken to keep them down, but I do not think they infest any other species so much as they do the Canary.

BALDNESS.

Question.—Baldness seems very prevalent amongst the tiny finches, prior to the moulting season, even when fed on insect food. Can you state the cause?

Answer.—Loss of feathers on the head is sometimes caused by the excessive preening of the plumage by the bird's mate. At other times it appears to be a symptom of poor health, and not due to any definite single cause. Cold, impure air, absence of bathing facilities, bad seed, a diet too exclusively of seed, absence of grit, want of green-food, and (possibly) want of lime, would all tend to cause it.

NOTE.—The above replies were sent by post to the questioners. All queries are so answered, but only uch replies as are of general interest are printed here.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB MARKET.

The charge for advertisements is one penny for each bird named. Advertisements must be concisely worded, and clearly written on a separate sheet of paper, with the name and address of advertiser at the foot. The fee must in all cases be prepaid in stamps. The Hon. Sec. is authorised to decline Advertisements which he considers undesirable. Advertisements for the DECEMBER issue must reach the Hon. Sec. not later than 11th December.

Wanted—two hen Cordon-bleus, healthy, not newly imported. Price to Mrs. BELFORD WILSON,
Greywell, Winchfield.

Cassell's Book of Birds, from the text of Dr. Brehm by Thomas Rymer Jones, 4 vols. bound in two, out of print, 15/-; the Birds of Cumberland, by the Rev. H. A. Macpherson, 1886, 15/-.
J. H. VERRALL, 88, St. Leonard's Road, Hove.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

Mr. RANDOLPH QUIN, 371, Ditchling Road, Brighton.
Mr. J. A. SWAN, 87, Lower Kennington Lane, S.E.
Mr. E. HOPKINSON, M.A., M.B., Oxon., 9, Holywell, Oxford
Miss PETROCOCHINO, 72, Westbourne Terrace, W.
Mr. H. K. PICARD, 10, Sandwell Crescent, W. Hampstead.

The above were proposed for election last month. The following are members of the Avicultural Society, and therefore, under the Rules, become members without being formally proposed and elected.

Mr. ARTHUR JONES, 71, Harrowgate Road, South Hackney.
Mrs. MORTIMER, Wigmore, Holmwood, Surrey.

Mr. T. TURNER, J.P., Cullompton, Devon.
Mr. S. BURGE, Ivy Cottage, Fairford.
Mr. W. H. BETTS, 2, Gray's Inn Place, Gray's Inn, W.C.
Mr. ARTHUR GILL, M.R.C.V.S., Bexley Heath, Kent.
Miss HODGSON, Hernewood, Sevenoaks.
Mrs. LESLIE WILLIAMS, 21, Bathwick Hill, Bath.
The Lady DUNLEATH, Ballywalter Park, Ballywalter, Co. Down.
Mr. J. CRONKSHAW, Mansion House, Plantation Street, Accrington.
Mr. HEDLEY SPEED, 12, Victoria Park, Bangor.
Mr. GAVIN ALSTON, Yondercroft, Darvel, Ayrshire.
Mr. CHARLES BRODIE, Thornton Loch, Innerwick, East Lothian.
Madame ALYS V. GORTER, The Delta, Walmer, Kent.
Miss R. ALDERSON, Park House, Worksop.
Miss A. M. WORDSWORTH, 19, Jermyn Street, Liverpool.
Mr. ALFRED CRAFER, 6, Laburnum Road, Epsom.
Miss G. F. CHAWNER, Forest Bank, Lyndhurst.
Mr. A. P. BLATHWAYT, Frogmore, Watford, Herts.
Mrs. FIFE, Langton Hall, Northallerton, Yorks.
Miss HOWMAN, Sherwood, Essex Grove, Upper Norwood, S.E.
Mr. JOHN SERGEANT, Mayfield, 4, Crosby Road East, Birkdale.
Mrs. HAMILTON, Bannerdown House, Batheaston, Bath.
Mrs. KEENE, Sandlea, Abbotsham Road, Bideford.
Lady MORSHEAD, Forest Lodge, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks.
Mr. NORMAN B. ROBERTS, Ashdell Cottage, Sheffield.
Mr. A. F. WIENER, 4, Bedford Place, Russell Square, W.C.
Mr. CHARLES HOULTON, Laburnum House, Denton's Green, St. Helens, Lancs.
Mr. E. RICHARD, Hotel Metropole, Brighton.
Mr. G. J. WRIGHT, 3, Rose Villas, Picton Road, Ramsgate.
Mr. JOHN FROSTICK, 18, Temperley Road, Balham, S.W.
Mrs. MICHELL, Crakehall, Bedale.
Mr. C. S. R. PERRING, 144a, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

Miss Maude Wilde, Little Gaddesden, Berkhampstead.
Mr. George Carrick, Strathearn Cottage, Saltcoats, Ayrshire.

NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED.

Mrs. Belford Wilson, Greywell, Winchfield.
Mr. William Hill Foster, 164, Portland Street, Southport.
Mr. F. Dunstone, 40, Round Hill Crescent, Brighton.
Mrs. Dutton, Bank Cottage, Walton, Stone, Staffs.
Mr. J. H. Verrall, 88, St. Leonard's Road, Hove.
Mr. Andrew Philip, 19, Parnell Place, Harold's Cross, Co. Dublin.
Miss M. S. Lattey, Hollydene, Allensbank Road, Cardiff.
Mr. H. S. Sharp, Heathfield, Bingley, Yorkshire.
Mr. William Earp, Park Place Gardens, Henley-on-Thames.

Proposed by the Hon. Sec.

At the London Cage Bird Association's Show at the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, on the 19th, 20th, and 21st November, a silver medal will be offered by the Club for the best foreign bird belonging to a member, and a bronze medal for the second best (the winner of the silver medal excluded). Schedules from Mr. J. Tyson, 169, Sloan Street, S.W. Nine classes for foreign birds. The Rev. H. D. Astley is the Judge.

At the Sheffield Cage Bird Society's Show, on the 27th and 28th November, the Club will offer a bronze medal for the best foreign bird belonging to a member. Schedules from Mr. J. C. Barnes, 149, Duncombe Street, Walkley, Sheffield. There are only three classes, but the prize-money is liberal, the entrance fee only 1/-, and there are numerous specials—consequently the Council thought it well to make an exception to Medal Rule 2. The Judges are Messrs. N. B. Roberts and E. E. Smith.

Foreign Bird Notes

FOR DECEMBER, 1901.

Will those members who have not yet paid their subscriptions be so kind as to forward them at their earliest convenience?

Referring to the correspondence on the "Humming Bird in London," Mr. Betts tells me that Gould had some Humming Birds many years ago in Warwick Court, Gray's Inn, but he believes that since then no one but Mr. Quin has ever seen a living example in England. It will be observed that Mr. Quin declines to state positively that the bird he saw was a Humming Bird, and in consequence of this, and of the fact that the incident he records took place some years ago, it may be well to keep an open mind upon the subject.

I am glad to be able to announce that at the February Palace Show the birds will be staged, as usual, in a tent. The Crystal Palace Company does not now, as it once did, contribute to the Show Fund, consequently the Show Committee have to be less liberal in classification and prize money than they used to be. No doubt the Council of our Club will offer the usual Medals for the best birds shown by members—but I should much like something more to be done to encourage the Show and bring members to the Club. I do not think that the Club, as a Club, can afford to give Special Prizes, and I want therefore to appeal to the generosity of the members. Will any members offer Specials to be competed for by members only? I should be very glad to hear from any who are willing to help in this way, but must ask them to write at once, as the Schedule goes to press in a few days.

The Lady Dunleath is to be heartily congratulated on her success in breeding the Spice Bird or Nutmeg Finch. This common species has generally been considered to be one of those which "will not" breed in the British Isles, and the fact that it has at last nested successfully encourages the hope that other birds, which have hitherto refused to breed, will in their turn yield to the skilful treatment of our aviculturists.

Our valued member Dr. Hopkinson has left England for West Africa, where he will be engaged for some months in a journey of exploration in the interior of the Gambia region. He expects to return home in July, and will then, I hope, resume his contributions to these pages.

HORATIO R. FILLMER,
Hon. Sec. FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

FOREIGN BIRDS AT THE AQUARIUM.

The London Cage Bird Association held their annual Show at the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, on the 19th, 20th, and 21st of November. There were eleven classes with open competition, and two confined to members of the Association. Unfortunately, five open classes and one of the members' classes had to be cancelled. There were about 70 entries, only one or two of which were absent, so the number competing was rather larger than at the Crystal Palace Show held a fortnight before. Considering that the classification and prize money were both slightly more liberal, this was to be expected. The classification was not a good one: putting Waxbills and Grassfinches in separate classes always causes confusion and mistakes; and the division of Insectivorous birds into "larger than," and "not larger than, a Blue Robin," is a rough and ready expedient which we ought to have seen the last of at large shows.

The classes for foreign Goldfinches and Bullfinches were both cancelled, also those for Amazons and Grey Parrots, and for Macaws, Cockatoos, and Parrots.

Class 70. *Budgerigars, Love-Birds, and Pigmy Parrots.* Six entries, one absent. First, Mr. Storey's well-known pair of Peach-faced Love-birds. Third, Mrs. C. Cooper's fine Budgerigars. (The second prize seems not to have been awarded). V. H. C., Mr. W. Judd's pair of Madagascar Love-birds. H. C., Mr. Hawkins' Budgerigars. C., Mr. Frostick's Peach-faced Love-birds.

Class 71. *Any other species of Parrakeet and Lorikeet.* Seven entries. First, Mr. Hawkins' hen Golden-shouldered Parrakeet, which took the first prize in a similar class at the Palace. Here it also won the Bronze Medal of the Foreign Bird Club. Second, Mr. Oakey's Port Lincoln. Third, Mr. Hawkins' Blue Bonnet. V.H.C., Mrs. Cooper's Mealy Rosella and Mr. Maxwell's Lory—the latter was one of the genus *Eos*, (we are not sure of the species, possibly *Eos reciniata*), therefore a true Lory and not a Lorikeet, and consequently in the wrong class. H. C., Miss Howe's Javan Parrakeet. There was also a pair of Redrumps.

Class 72. *Waxbills, Mannikins, and Combassous.* Eight entries. Most of the birds in this class were the same as those in the corresponding class at the Palace, and it was curious and amusing to see how differently they were placed by the respective Judges. First, Mr. Hawkins' Cordon-bleus—a fine pair of extra large birds, the hen perfect, but the cock not quite so. Second, Mr. Hawkins' Fire Finches. Third, Mr. Townsend's Lavender Finches. V. H. C., Mr. Townsend's Golden-breasted Waxbills. H.C., Mr. Hawkins' Fire Finches. The class also contained the Rufous-tailed Finches which were first at the Palace, the Pectoral Finches which were second there, and the Wiener's Waxbills which were third there—all here passed without even a card. One of the Pectoral Finches looked out of sorts, and the Wiener's Waxbills were perhaps scarcely in show condition, but the Rufous-tails were undoubtedly the best birds in this class, and we understand they were passed by the Judge solely because he considered them to be in the wrong class. This was rather hard treatment in view of the fact that Rufous-tailed Finches always have been shown in the Waxbill classes, and compete most fairly there. No doubt the Judge was technically correct—but it is questionable whether such very strict adherance to the wording of a rather loosely drawn schedule is necessary or desirable. The Fire Finches were charming birds and well deserved their position, for although commonly imported the species is so very delicate, until acclimatized, that it is very rare to see good examples.

Class 73. *Weavers and Whydahs.* Cancelled.

Class 74. *Any other species of seed-eating bird.* Twenty entries. Four consecutive entries, belonging to Mr. Hawkins, took all the prizes. First, two hybrid Parrot Finches, which we think have often been seen on the Show bench—they were not quite in perfect condition, in fact Parrot Finches seldom are, partly because they moult twice in the year and are some time over it. Second, a nice little pair of Cuba Finches. Third, a Diamond Finch in grand feather, but lucky to be in the money. Fourth, a very good cock Red-headed Gouldian. V.H.C., Miss McGruther's Black-headed Gouldian cock, Mr. Hawkins' pair of Long-tailed Grassfinches, and Mr. Townsend's Parrot Finch. H.C., Mr. Fillmer's Desert Trumpeter, Mrs. Cooper's Long-tailed Grassfinch (first at the Palace) and Mrs. S. J. Brown's Red-headed Gouldian. C., Mr. Fillmer's Yellow Sparrow, Mr. Townsend's Red-headed Gouldian, and Mr. Frostick's Red-backed Buntings. The class also contained a pair of Ribbon Finches, a Diuca Finch (which deserved a card), two pairs of White Java Sparrows, two very poor Red-headed Cardinals, and a Zebra Finch. A good class on the whole, which must have given some trouble to the Judge.

Class 75. *Insectivorous or Fruit-eating Birds, larger than a Blue Robin.* Eight entries—one of which was absent. First, Mr. Glasscoe's Masked Wood-swallow, which occupied the same position at the Palace. Second, Mr. Swan's White-capped Tanager (*Stephanophorus leucocephalus*)—a bird which we believe to be unique on the Show bench, singularly beautiful, and well deserving of the Silver Medal of the Club which was awarded to it. Third, Mr. Townsend's Malabar Green Bulbul. Fourth, Mr. Glasscoe's White-eyebrowed Wood-swallow. V. H. C., Mr. Cushny's Golden-headed Troupial, Mr. Glasscoe's Sacred Kingfisher, and a bird exhibited by Mr. Townsend, unnamed in the catalogue, which he informs us is the Archbishop Tanager (*Tanagra ornata*). It was a small but very excellent class, every bird in which deserved to be a winner.

Class 76. *Insectivorous or Fruit-eating Birds. not larger than a Blue Robin.* Seven entries. First, Mr. Frostick's Blue and Black Tanager. Second, Mr. Townsend's Pekin Robin—a rather strange award, considering the commonness of the bird and the ease with which it is kept in Show condition. Third, Mr. Frostick's Sugar Bird, entered as a Yellow-winged, but which we take to be a rarer species, possibly *Chlorophanes spiza.* V. H. C., Mr. Townsend's pair of Zosterops. H. C., two Scarlet Tanagers shown by Mr. Frostick. The class also contained a White-eared Bulbul, the most delightful of all the true Bulbuls. The quality in this class was not nearly so good as in Class 75.

Class 110. *Any variety (Seed-eating).* Confined to members of the L. C. B. A. First, Mr. Hawkins' pair of Many-coloured Parrakeets. Second, Mr. Maxwell's Scaly-breasted Lorikeet. Third, Mr. Frostick's Meyer's Parrot. Fourth, Mr. Hawkins' Bicheno's Finch. V.H.C., Mr. Hawkins' Gouldian. H. C., Mr. Hawkins' Olive Cuba Finches. C., Mr. Hawkins' Grey Singing Finches, Mr. Burrows' two pairs of Budgerigars and Mr. Frostick's Redrumps. The class also contained some Zebra Finches, two Scarlet Tanagers, and a good Red-crested Cardinal. Such a mixture must have been a dreadful task to the Judge, and criticism is disarmed in contemplation of it.

So far as Parrots were concerned the Show was a failure — so many classes being cancelled. But the collection of small birds was decidedly good. All the foreign birds were judged by the Rev. H. D. Astley. We have pointed out a good many instances in which we differ from his awards, but we do not wish to convey the impression that the judging was otherwise than generally satisfactory. At all events it was the judging of a man who knew the birds.

ON JUDGING FOREIGN BIRDS.

Judging foreign birds differs essentially from judging the artificial varieties of Canaries, Pigeons, and Dogs. In the case of the latter there are certain definite standards of perfection to which breeders and exhibitors try to make their animals conform, and the duty of the judge consists in assigning their just values to certain arbitrary points. The judge of foreign birds, however, has no such standard with which to compare his exhibits. No Society, so far as I know, has ever even attempted to formulate rules for judging foreign birds, and every judge therefore has to a great extent to create and carry out his own rules. Under these circumstances it can hardly be a matter for wonder that foreign bird judging has often been rather a haphazard matter, and has sometimes given more dissatisfaction at Shows than the judging of Canaries and British birds.

In judging foreign birds there are, in my opinion, two points to which equal attention should be paid and for which equal credit should be given : (1) condition, (2) rarity.

In giving credit for condition, that is for perfection of plumage and bodily form, the relative difficulty of keeping different birds of this class in health and condition should always be kept in mind. Here the "all-round" judge generally comes to grief. Having had little or no practical experience in keeping foreign birds, he awards the prize to the bird which happens to have the best appearance on the Show bench, exalting a Java Sparrow or Zebra-finch over a Gouldian or a Green Avadavat, which are far more difficult to keep in good plumage.

Again, in considering the question of rarity, the judge must remember that there are many birds which are rarely seen in confinement simply because they are unattractive or unsuitable for captivity, and therefore there is little or no demand for them.

A third point which would naturally influence a judge is the suitability and cleanliness of the cage in which a bird is shewn, but since birds are seldom exhibited in the cages in which they live, too much credit should not be given for this point. At the same time, an exhibitor who does not take the trouble to send his bird in a decent cage, has no right to complain when he is beaten by the man who exhibits his bird properly. Beauty of form and plumage can hardly fail to exert a great influence on the judge's mind; other things being equal, a beautifully coloured bird will always beat a duller looking species. But beauty is so much a matter of opinion that I think the judge ought not to allow this consideration to weigh too much with him. Some judges attach great importance to "steadiness." A very "steady" bird has generally passed a great part of its life in travelling from Show to Show in a small cage, which is not a thing to be encouraged. On the other hand it is most painful to see a very timid bird fluttering wildly at the approach of each visitor. No bird ought to be sent to a Show unless it is tame enough to bear being looked at without being scared out of its wits. Due credit therefore should be given to steadiness.

There are certain special difficulties with which the foreign bird judge has to contend.

One of the most important of these difficulties is the enormous number of species of foreign birds which are, or are liable to be, imported as cage birds. However experienced an aviculturist the judge may be, he will from time to time be called upon to pass judgment upon a bird which he has never before met with, possibly the first specimen of its species to be imported and exhibited. The foreign bird judge should never lose an opportunity of visiting a public or private collection of birds, he should study every book on the subject to which he has access, and he should be well acquainted with the skins at the Natural History Museum. He will then be able to assert with confidence when he meets with a new bird, "that must be a *very* rare bird, I have never seen one before."

Another difficulty is that of distinguishing the sexes of birds which are exhibited in pairs. Here I think the judge's duty is plain. In the case of those species in which the sexes can be distinguished by a simple inspection of the birds in their cages he should insist upon their being correctly exhibited. But in the case of those species in which the sexes can only be distinguished by minute differences, such as the comparative width of the beak, he should give the exhibitor credit for a true pair. No bird should ever be removed from its cage by the judge unless he has reason to suspect "faking" or dishonest treatment of some kind.

A third difficulty is that of deciding whether the birds are exhibited in their proper classes. At one time it was the custom to name the classes so carelessly that it was impossible for judge or exhibitor to know in what class a bird ought to be shewn. Ten years ago, when the Crystal Palace had classes for "Thick-billed finches," "Small-billed finches," and others with equally vague names, it was the custom for exhibitors to "pay their money and take their choice," frequently winning prizes with birds of the same species in two or three different classes. At the present time, however, I believe judges seldom have much trouble in "wrong-classing" an exhibit, because the classes are more accurately and carefully named and notes generally added for the guidance of exhibitors.

Another very real difficulty in judging foreign birds arises from the necessity of making the awards very shortly after birds have arrived at the Show and before they have had time to recover from the effects of their journeys. Some birds are affected much more than others, and I have seldom visited a Show on the second day, after judging on the first, without feeling that my awards would have been different in some cases had I been able to give the birds more time to recover from the effects of their travels. Classes containing Gouldian-finches should always be left as long as possible after arrival before being judged. as these birds almost always suffer more or less from travelling.

The last difficulty I have to mention is one that, I am thankful to say, is seldom met with in the case of foreign birds; I mean "faking." This, in my experience, is confined to the removal of dark feathers from White Java Sparrows, and as it cannot be detected the judge need not trouble himself about it.

C. S. Simpson, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.

ON BIRD BUYING.

People who are not extravagant by nature must lose a most enormous amount of pleasure. I often wonder—but my wonder is not mixed with envy, for I would ten times rather have my own spendthriftiness and the joy of it, though it does leave me at times without a half-penny or more than a rag on my back—at people who carefully consider all sorts of things before they buy what they want. I even know a lady who hesitates at spending half-a-crown on a bird treat, for as she says herself, "Although one has the money doing nothing, there *might* be a better use for it!" So much conscience as that would make *me* quite ill if I owned it. There are persons—mothers, and husbands, and so on—who never buy themselves a single thing, and this is the only reflection that occasionally pulls me up in my wild career, when I reflect on *one* of the reasons why they don't —but all this is too intimately personal.

Well, is it not a fine joy to get a little birdy parcel by the railway? (One might almost suppose that the railway was a kind entity, and *wished* to give you pleasure by the way that it lengthens out your anticipation). When you know you are already full up, and that the new bird means a new cage, although you yesterday assured someone who objected—someone always does—that you could make ample room for it with the Waxbills, and when you also know that you will have to borrow long before next month's money arrives because you have bought it, the pleasure is enhanced by ever so much. When I have one bird of a sort, I always want more, and more, and more! Do not you? If not, you don't really enjoy buying. Selling is useful, sometimes necessary, but I am not writing about it at present.

One thing that is bad about bird buying is the possibility of being done. The very first Canaries I ever purchased came from a lady who has since, and I feel sure deservedly, been placed on the *Exchange and Mart's* Black List, and I have often bought from advertisers since who ought to accompany her into that cheerful retreat. She sent me two hens, if I remember rightly, one blind and the other lame; but there was nothing interesting about the transaction. One cannot ask for sympathy when things like this happen, because what will be said in reply is stereotyped and not consoling. It always includes a reference, among other comforts, to the deposit-approval system. Now I am certain that Mr. Fillmer did not use that system, admirable as it is, when he bought his Parrot Finch for 5/-, and the only time I tried it the man wrote back that he had had a postal order by the same delivery and preferred that.

The game of chance, as played by sending small sums (I say "small" so as to shock nobody) for advertised birds and waiting to see what will come, is none the less exciting for the element of risk. On the whole, one is oftener pleased than otherwise with what arrives, though a Rock Parrot is decidedly more likely to turn out an Alexandrine after all, than to be the Australian rarity you fondly hoped it *might* be. Such things as this latter event do happen to some people, but not to me.

I prefer to buy through advertisements rather than to go to shops, except in the case of one or two emporia where I am known. In a strange shop it is a disadvantage to be feminine, for the dealer instantly concludes you cannot possibly know anything, and it is so disagreeable to refrain from argument when he tells you the Indigo Bunting and the Nonpareil are hen and cock to one another. Like Alice I replied indignantly, when I received this piece of information last, but "Well, we

SELL them so at any rate," seemed an unanswerable argument. Then, if you are not absolutely poverty stricken in appearance, and especially if you arrive in a hansom, as I always do, because I can't walk and am afraid of small-pox in omnibuses, the prices go up at once. Of course this doesn't apply to what I call real bird shops—that is, to shops kept by men who are themselves aviculturists, only to the catchpenny sort where dogs in a state of mange, manufactured Manx cats, and guinea pigs very very far from being show stock—who takes the trouble to breed the rabbits and cavies that these shops sell, I wonder ?—help to make things pleasant for the birds. Then, in the good shops, temptation lurks, and you buy ever so much more than you intended ; the pleasure is over in a very few minutes, and there is no anticipation. It is twice as good to write to the shop and have the birds come to you—at least so I find it. I wish the other members would all tell us what they think and how they buy—and especially whether they are reckless or prudent. There is a little bit in Mr. Verrall's letter which bears on this subject : he says it is his rule never to buy or sell on approval. I can thoroughly understand and sympathize with not selling on approval, when one knows one is honest and reliable. But why *never* buy on approval ? Everybody is not a member of the Foreign Bird Club or another similar Society, and approval is wholesome (though I don't like to wait to deposit) for some advertising dealers to practise. The reliable ones offer it freely without deposit, so it cannot be amiss to take them at their word. Perhaps the objection is vicarious and Mr. Verrall is arguing from the birds' point of view. If you go in for Canaries, approval is very useful, for some amateurs who are perfectly *bona fide* are nevertheless completely untrustworthy, merely because they don't know what they are talking about. The purely amateur idea of a good Crest Canary, for instance, is often as far as the empyrean from the reality as understood by an expert.

MARGARET WILLIAMS.

BREEDING THE SPICE BIRD.

I have had my pair of Spice Birds for some years—since 1896 I think. In May of last year I turned all my birds out into a new outdoor aviary which I had made. In No. 1 Division I have Canaries, Ribbon Finches, Whydahs, Zebra Finches, Waxbills, Avadavats, Nuns, Bengalese, Parson Finches, Saffron Finches, Bullfinches, Cockatiels, Java Doves, Cordon Bleus, Spice Birds, Nicobar Pigeons, and one Scarlet Tanager, one Superb Tanager, one Fontenegra, and one Mountain Finch, altogether 130 birds. Before I went to Scotland this autumn I had only one pair of Spice Birds, and I noticed one of them sitting in a travelling box-cage which was hung inside the aviary cottage, from the roof, by a long wire (to prevent mice from getting at the nest). I went away at the beginning of August, and on returning at the end of September I found two young Spice Birds flying about, with fluff still on their heads. They are now a beautiful rich brown, and more clearly marked than their parents.

I also reared three Cordon Bleus, and they were fully fledged and flying about when I left home, but when I returned I could only see the parents.

The great storm of wind and rain about the middle of November killed, I am sorry to say, my Superb Tanager, my hen Cordon Bleu, two Pekin Robins, one Goldenbreast, and my Blue-winged Love Birds—but all the rest look well. The only bird I have taken in for the winter is the Scarlet Tanager—I got him last November, and he has been out since May.

The second division of my aviary contains Pekin Robins, Indigos, Weavers, Green Singing Finches, Nonpareils, two Teal, Virginians, Popes, one Rosella, one Half-moon Parakeet, one Indian Ring-necked Parrakeet, one Redrump, and Zebra Doves—26 birds in all. I am now enlarging the aviary and making a third division for Virginian Cardinals and Popes.

The only heat is from a small oil stove and an oil lamp, which are lighted at four o'clock in the afternoon and kept burning all night. Since having the stove I have lost no small birds. The temperature goes down to 32 deg., and is never in winter above 50 deg. This is the second winter for nearly all the birds. I shut them in only at night and on a very wet day. I had in the spring nine Zebra Finches and now have thirty-two.

N. L. F. DUNLEATH.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER BOX.

METHODS OF WARMING AVIARIES.

SIR,—I will begin by explaining what my aviary and bird-room are like; they are roughly made, for I am my own architect and builder. There is a room built out at the back of my house, and roofed with zinc; on this roof I have built my bird-room. There is a wall on three sides of it, and the front I have made with four large windows. The roof I made with four large shutters, and covered the same with zinc; these I can take down and put up, according to the state of the weather; there is also a wire roof, so that when the shutters are down the birds have the benefit of more fresh air, and of the sunshine and rain.

I use gas for heating in the following way. There is a kind of metal urn with the bottom off, which stands on four bricks over a No. 4 gas burner (a large aviary would require a larger burner). This urn has a tin pipe at the top of it which is carried to the top of the aviary and across it, and then through the roof, with a small cowl on the opening of the pipe to prevent a down draught. This I find answers admirably—the urn and pipe get so hot that you cannot bear your hand on them, and to save the birds from burning themselves I put a cage of half-inch mesh wire netting over the urn. To see the birds fight for a place on the cage at night is most amusing. The laying on of the gas, the urn, pipe, etc., cost me 10/- or less, I think, and the No. 4 Bray's burner burns 4ft. of gas per hour. Gas in my neighbourhood is 2/6 per 1,000ft., so that the cost of heating is a fraction under 3d. for 24 hours. ARTHUR JONES.

SIR,—My aviary is 36ft. long by 15ft. wide, and 8ft. high. It has brick walls on two sides, and on the others glass and corrugated iron lined with match-boarding. It is divided into six compartments, all the partitions being wire above the height of 2ft. from the floor. The floor is of concrete, with a trough running through all the compartments, with water laid on so arranged that the trough can be filled or the water allowed to run through it.

Any member who is in my part of the country (Southport) can have a look if he likes to call. My aviary is heated with 4″ hot water pipes, fed from an independent boiler which requires attention twice a-day. I have tried both gas and oil. Gas needs less attention but is expensive—I had it laid on last winter, but found it cost me about 2/6 per week. I had a stove called the "King of Stoves," which requires no chimney and has three ordinary gas burners in it. It is very good, but there is a better one made by Feulon and Son, of London, which works as a radiator with gas and water—it costs about £6. If gas is used there ought to be a ventilator in the roof always open. I have an Acme Ventilator in the roof of my aviary, which is always open as no down draught can come down. W. H. FOSTER.

SIR,—My bird-room is heated by an ordinary slow combustion stove. I gave 16/- for it at the A. & N. Stores. I had the grate in the room stopped up, and over the mantelpiece a hole cut to pass the stove-pipe through. The stove stands on a large slab of stone and is inside a cage of half-inch galvanized wire, high enough to enclose the stove-pipe, which, I have already said, goes through the wall above the chimney piece. The wire cage is made on light wooden uprights, and is fitted with a door: my object was to be able to have the stove some little way out in the room, and so better distribute the heat. I can keep up a temperature of 50 to 60 degrees all night. The stove is attended to every night about 9.30, and is warm enough at 7 o'clock next morning to only require a few sticks, and the damper left open awhile, to revive the fire.

I always have the outside door of the bird-room open night and day, and inside the room I have a sort of porch of half-inch galvanized wire with a door; this arrangement I find very useful, as I am sure fresh air (especially if one has a stove) in a bird-room is most necessary.

In Summer the stove is taken away and the pipe-hole stopped up—and there you have a roomy cage for Canaries or other birds that want to nest.

The above arrangement is primitive, no doubt, but in an old-fashioned country house, with no heating apparatus, one must do with what one *can* have and not with what one *would* have.

ISABELLA BELFORD WILSON.

SHRIKES, MYNAHS, AND WOODLARKS.

SIR,—Will a member of the F. B. C. give his experience of the Australian Shrikes, describe their size and plumage, and say whether they are good whistlers? I also want to know the capabilities of the Crested Mynah as a cage pet, and whether Austrian Woodlarks are superior songsters to British.

Could an index to foreign cage birds be attached to "Notes," giving all the different names, including dealers names, of each species? AMAZON.

[Will some member please answer all or any of the above questions? The proposed "Index" is a large order, but I will see whether it is not possible to do something towards it some day.—ED.]

THE HUMMING-BIRD IN LONDON.

SIR,—In my little narrative I carefully avoided the use of the name Humming Bird, and you will recollect that you, not I, are responsible for the title at the head of the article. I am not a professed ornithologist, and I had never (before) seen a live Humming-bird, therefore I do not care to positively assert that this was one. But if it was not a Humming Bird, what was it? I have no real doubt in my mind about it. RANDOLPH QUIN.

[I accept responsibility for the title, and in justification of my giving Mr. Quin's story such a heading, I can only repeat his question. "If it was not a Humming-bird, what was it?"—ED.]

SUITABLE BIRDS FOR CAGES.

SIR,—The birds which "W" recommended to his acquaintance make a nice selection, but we all have our fancies, and I expect that no two of us would make exactly the same choice. Personally I think the Waxbills are more suited for cage life than any other birds—they are small, and therefore have more room for exercise than larger birds would have in the same cage, and the hens seldom lay, so that the risk of egg-binding is not great. Green Singing Finches make charming cage-birds, but are rather quarrelsome. Alario Finches are delightful little birds, with a pretty song—but they are rare just now, and are not very hardy. I should omit the Budgerigars and Love Birds, as apt to be dangerous.

If Waxbills are considered too fragile, the following would be my choice for a dozen *hardy* birds to live together in a cage and make a good show of bright plumage. Pairs,—Chestnut Finch, Grey Java Sparrow, Spice Bird. Cocks, — Paradise Whydah, Pintailed Whydah, Orange Weaver, Napoleon Weaver, Ribbon Finch, Zebra Finch. These would all live well on plain canary-seed and white millet, with a spray of French millet now and then. They are all cheap birds, except perhaps the Whydahs, and a Silverbill and a Bronze Mannikin might be substituted for the latter.

Another cage might contain a pair of Green Singing Finches, a pair of Grey Singing Finches, a cock Nonpareil, a cock Indigo Finch, and a White-throated Finch

—these would be better without white millet and might have a few hemp seeds now and then. The Nonpareil and Indigo would want a mealworm now and then, or a little egg food. RANDOLPH QUIN.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

"COLIFICHET."

Question.—What is "*colifichet?*" J. H. H.

Answer.—It is a sort of gluten bread, made in France, expressly, it is understood, for birds. It is sold by most bird dealers in horseshoe-shaped rolls. It is similar to the bread made for sufferers from diabetes. It is more easily digested by insectivorous birds than ordinary bread or biscuit, and is non-fattening. It is easily crumbled to powder in the hands, and can then be mixed with other ingredients.

BREEDING BUNTINGS.

Question.—Can any one tell me what small foreign female bird would mate with a "Nonpareil" (or "Mexican Canary," as it is called in Mexico)? I had several brought over, both cocks and hens, but all have died except two cocks, and I am told that the hens will not live in England. I have Canaries, Nonpareils, and Budgerigars in an out door aviary. The place is not heated, it faces south, and half of it is covered in with glass, and on very cold nights I put a shutter up. The birds are in excellent health; they have a bath twice a week and always plenty of spray millet and green food, besides canary seed and white millet. I am very anxious, if possible, to breed from the Nonpareils, if there is a foreign female bird that I could put with them in the aviary. The plumage of the birds that I have now is perfect, and they all look bright and happy and never mope. J. F.

Answer.—The Nonpareil is a Bunting. The only very nearly allied species of which you would be able to obtain a female is the Indigo Bunting. It would probably be fairly easy to cross these two species, but I expect a hen Indigo would be almost as difficult to get as a hen Nonpareil. You might try to cross your Nonpareils with a female of the Japanese Red-backed Bunting—there have been a good many of them about lately, and they can be bought cheap. There is no reason why hen Nonpareils should not live in England, but they are seldom imported. This species, as well as the Indigo Bunting, has been bred in an English aviary, but, like all Buntings, they will at first feed their young on nothing but live insects.

THE SHEFFIELD SHOW.

The Sheffield Cage Bird Society held their annual Show on the 27th and 28th of November. There were three classes for foreign birds, containing altogether 47 entries. We are, unfortunately, without a report of the Show, and these notes are simply compiled from the catalogue. The chief prize winner was Mr. Osbaldeston, who appears to have shown a wonderfully fine team of birds. Other members of the Club who exhibited were Mr. Oakey, Miss Alderson, Mr. Parker, and Mr. H. B. Smith—in fact more than three-fourths of the entries belonged to members. The Club's Medal was awarded to Miss Alderson's Shamah "Hector," which from all accounts is a most charming bird.

R. L. S's SILVERBILLS.

'*Paris, Jan., 1878.*—I have become a bird fancier. I carry six little creatures no bigger than my thumb about with me almost all day long; they are so pretty; and it is so nice to waken in the morning and hear them sing.' Six or seven years later he again alludes to these or to other similar pets. 'There is only one sort of bird that

I can tolerate caged, though even then I think it hard, and that is what is called in France the Bec-d'-Argent. I once had two of these pigmies in captivity; and in the quiet, bare house upon a silent street where I was then living, their song, which was not much louder than a bee's but airily musical, kept me in a perpetual good-humour. I put the cage upon my table when I worked, carried it with me when I went for meals, and kept it by my head at night: the first thing in the morning, these *maestrini* would pipe up.'—*Life of Robert Louis Stevenson, by Graham Balfour. Methuen & Co., 1891.*

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB MARKET.

The charge for advertisements is one penny for each bird named. Advertisements must be concisely worded, and clearly written on a separate sheet of paper, with the name and address of advertiser at the foot. The fee must in all cases be prepaid in stamps. The Hon. Sec. is authorised to decline Advertisements which he considers undesirable. Advertisements for the JANUARY issue must reach the Hon. Sec. not later than 11th January.

Magpie Mannikin, presented by a member, to be sold without reserve for the benefit of the Club. The best offer received by the Secretary from an *amateur* member before the 25th of Dec., will be accepted. The bird is in perfect condition.

Wanted—from an outdoor aviary, two hen Japanese Red-backed Buntings, to mate with a Nonpareil. What price are they?

Mrs. FIFE, Langton Hall, Northallerton, Yorks.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

Mrs. BELFORD WILSON, Greywell, Winchfield.

Mr. WILLIAM HILL FOSTER, 164, Portland Street, Southport.

Mr. F. DUNSTONE, 40, Round Hill Crescent, Brighton.

Mrs. DUTTON, Bank Cottage, Walton, Stone, Staffs.

Mr. J. H. VERRALL, 88, St. Leonard's Road, Hove.

Mr. ANDREW PHILIP, 19, Parnell Place, Harold's Cross, Co. Dublin.

Miss M. S. LATTEY, Hollydene, Allensbank Road, Cardiff.

Mr. H. S. SHARPE, Heathfield, Bingley, Yorkshire.

Mr. WILLIAM EARP, Park Place Gardens, Henley-on-Thames.

Mrs. ANNINGSON, Walt-ham-sal, Barton Road, Cambridge. Mem. Avic. Society.

Miss HUSBAND, Clifton View, York. Mem. Avic. Society.

Mr. A. SAVAGE, 3, Rue Bihorel, Bihorel, Rouen, France. Mem. Avic. Society.

NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED.

Mr. E. R. PHILLIPS, 6, Park View, Bray, Co. Wicklow. *Proposed by* Mr. ANDREW PHILIP.

Mr. JOHN ACUTT, 114, Upland Road, East Dulwich. *Proposed by* Mr. R. QUIN.

Mr. J. J. MUMFORD, The Poplars, Rockingham Road, Kettering.

Mr. J. H. HARRISON, Broad Oak, Lytham.

Signora GIULIA ZAMMATI BALDELLI, 4, Via Silvio Pellico, Florence, Italy.

Proposed by the HON. SEC.

Foreign Bird Notes

FOR JANUARY, 1902.

We have more than eighty members, but I have written less than sixty receipts for subscriptions—consequently there are still a good many who have not yet been able to find time to forward a postal order. I do not want to make a personal application by letter—I do not grudge the trouble, but I do begrudge the postage. And I am afraid a post card would hardly be polite. Will those who have not yet paid kindly bear in mind the interesting little fact that, if I have to *write* to them, their net contribution, to the by no means overflowing coffers of the Club, will be not 5/-, but 4/11.

A member, who desired to remain anonymous, offered a special prize of one guinea, open to members only, at the forthcoming Palace Show, but unfortunately his generous offer was received too late, the Schedule being already in print. The donor has consequently given the money to the general fund of the Foreign Bird Club. As will be seen in the Schedule, Mr. Oakey also kindly responded to my appeal for specials, and happily his letter was in time. I hope that next year Mr. Ramsden will be able to give us more time in which to make arrangements.

It is stated in the Schedule that the classification adopted for the Foreign Bird Section was suggested by the Club. This is quite correct, the classification being substantially the same as that settled by the Council of the Club for any Show providing 12 classes. The classes for Goldfinches and Bullfinches have beeu added. Whydahs and Weavers should have been included in class 115—for this omission, and one or two slight verbal inaccuracies, I must, on behalf of the Club, disclaim responsibility.

Entries close January 13th, the birds are to reach the Show January 30th. Is there any real need for an interval of 17 days? The objections to such a long interval are well known, the chief being that it results in so many substituted entries, and consequent (apparent) inaccuracy of the catalogue. What are the advantages? Surely it would be much better to fix the latest possible date for closing entries, and stick to it.

Mr. Osbaldeston objects to the system of consecutive numbering of entries always adopted at the Palace. I confess that I do not share his objection. The effect of this system is that each cage has its own number, and confusion and mistakes are less likely to occur than when the same numbers are repeated in each class.

HORATIO R. FILLMER,
Hon. Sec. FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

MY SHAMAHS.

If any bird lover wants a delightful pet let him keep a Shamah.

I have at present three specimens, one hen and two cocks, and as one of the latter has just won the Club's Medal and the 1st prize at the Sheffield Bird Show, perhaps a short account of my three birds may be of some interest.

To begin with their price. Shamahs seem to be imported into England in the largest numbers about March. Cocks may then be bought for 31/- or even less, but this is about the usual price. Hens are far more difficult to get, probably the natives of India consider them much inferior to the cock birds both in plumage and song, and so do not often catch them. By keeping a look out in the sale lists of foreign birds, a hen may be picked up now and again for about the same price as a cock, but it should be remembered that the prices of foreign birds vary *very* much according to the time of year; however, a little careful study will soon teach anyone what is a fair price, and not an excessive one, for any bird they may want. The cock Shamah is a comparatively small bird, but his long slender tail makes him look larger than he really is. His chief colouring is rich glossy blue-black, with a breast and under-parts of bright tawny brown. He has a pure white patch just over the tail, and the under feathers of the tail are also white.

The cock has a lovely ever-changing song. So beautifully does he modulate his voice, from very loud notes to a soft whisper, that he rather gives one the idea that he is rehearsing an opera of his own, and taking all the different parts himself. The hen bird is soft drab where her lord is black. Both birds have round dark eyes, very bright and intelligent, and more like those of an English Robin than any bird I know; there is, too, a sprightliness about a Shamah that is very attractive.

My birds are easily kept in excellent health on a very simple diet. In the morning they have bought insectivorous bird food mixed with grated carrot, and in the afternoon ants' eggs, soaked first in hot water and then strained; all the old food from the morning being of course taken away, as it might turn sour.

There are many good foods for insectivorous birds in the market, personally I always use that made by Mr. Arthur, of Melksham, Wiltshire. Besides these two staple articles of diet my Shamahs have a few mealworms every day (the hen, "Mimi," is very clever at catching them when thrown to her) or a few house beetles (not poisoned ones) or an occasional moth, the latter being a special dainty. All my three birds were in poor plumage when I got them, for their soft feathers soon seem to get damaged, but now they are in their new coats, and as glossy and smooth as satin.

Anyone getting a Shamah will find it will readily take a mealworm from the hand, even while in its travelling cage, and soon it will get to know its name, and will come when called and perch on your wrist. My first Shamah "Phil" is very intelligent: he is a great pet, and lives in the house during the winter. I often carry a small box of mealworms about with me for the benefit of my feathered friends, and the moment "Phil" sees my hand going to my pocket he is on the alert; he has even tried to get into it before now. A little trick he has learnt is to give the box *two* taps with his beak when it is brought out, which is his way of saying, "I want a mealworm please." I even suspect him of being an arithmetician in his own way, for I have known him to give *four* successive taps and then take out two worms!

Sometime ago poor "Phil" broke his leg so high up that he had to have it amputated, but the little fellow is still very active, and bears his loss bravely. He is soberer now, but in his younger days he was a real mischief, and would steal my thread-ends when I was sewing, or pull my hair, all to make me notice him.

I got "Phil" a wife, but he was so jealous of her that I had to take her away, and after a time I got her a fresh husband. This pair, "Mimi" and "Hector" have been in a cold outdoor aviary since the summer.

They are very lively in the day and do not seem to feel the cold at all, though I believe they roost in the shelter at night. When I took "Hector" to the Sheffield Show he was at first very frightened and crouched on the floor in a corner of the cage; for with all their boldness Shamahs are very nervous in strange surroundings. After a time he got over his fear and really seemed to enjoy the Show, singing gaily away, as if he was very proud of himself. His devoted wife greatly missed him while he was away, and when he came back gave him a most affectionate greeting. "Hector" is a real tyrant, for all the return he made her was to dart after her and chase her off. He then dashed into his bath (of which he had been deprived for two days) in great delight. Both my birds regularly bathe even in cold weather, and so keep in beautiful plumage and condition.

ROSIE ALDERSON.

THE ARCHBISHOP TANAGER.

A very beautiful bird not very well known is the Archbishop Tanager (*Tanagra ornata*). It is a rare bird—I believe only five have been imported. I think perhaps a description of the one in my possession may be of interest to some of our readers. My first I obtained in July, 1899, but I only kept it a short time as unfortunately it had a fright and broke a blood vessel on its brain. The present one I bought at the beginning of December, 1900—he was then out of colour, looking more or less a dull lilac grey all over; but after a little while the head and breast became a beautiful lavender, which threw up the grey throat and lower parts, and a patch of bright lemon yellow appeared on his shoulders. The lower coverts have an olive tint, while the flight feathers and tail are dark slate colour edged with green. The back, which is greenish slate colour, is prettily marked with very dark slate, and if you catch the sun on it it looks very lovely. The legs are grey. In size he is rather larger than a Scarlet Tanager. He is of a timid disposition, though tame enough to eat a grape from your hand, and very fond of mealworms which he takes readily. He always wants to be served first with his, and is very jealous, and, I am afraid, bad tempered. The other day a Lavender Finch escaped and alighted on his cage, he at once dashed on the bars and nearly caught it. I do not know whether it was only jealousy, or a tendency to cannibalism, but the little bird only just escaped him. He enjoys a bath every day and makes himself and everything around him very wet. As a Show bird he has never been a great success; it may be that his colouring is not striking enough in an indifferent light.

S. M. TOWNSEND.

BREEDING THE GOLDEN-BREASTED WAXBILL.

Being very much in love with the Golden-breasted or Zebra Waxbill, and most desirous of breeding that species in my outdoor aviary, I purchased a pair from a dealer early in May last. Though the birds on their arrival were not in good plumage (being minus their tails) they were certainly healthy, and I was glad to be able to turn them into my sunny aviary, after a few days quarantine only. Here they soon improved in appearance, and their lively ways were most interesting. The male bird became a splendid little fellow, and seemed to glory in dancing to his mate with a feather in his beak twice the size of himself!

Towards the middle of August, I noticed Mr. Waxy was particularly anxious to build in a small shrub growing by the entrance door, and would carry heaps of feathers into a nest of hay I had already put there. There was, however, little or no joy for the birds in selecting this position, as they were robbed unmercifully by their companions, and I began to think their nesting successfully with me was out of the question—my Zebra Finches, Bengalese, and other Waxbills having taken possession of all the more suitable nesting boxes. I would not be discouraged, however. In a very snug and sheltered corner of the aviary, I hung up a small wicker cage, with some nice sweet hay and a few white feathers inside. This, to me, seemed an ideal spot, and I hoped my pretty Goldenbreasts would soon inspect the new premises, and decide upon setting up housekeeping immediately. I was not disappointed. The nest was completed, and about Sept. 24th, I noticed the birds were sitting very closely—first one and then the other—and, seeing their anxiety whenever an inquisitive individual approached, I concluded they had either eggs or young. I was right in my surmises, for on going into the aviary a week later, I found a tiny dead bird on the ground, just underneath their nest. My high hopes, I thought, were not to be realized. But as time went on, I could distinctly hear young birds being fed, and from the noise they made, I came to the conclusion that there were at least five or six. The old birds were capital feeders, and ate heartily of spray and white millet, egg-food, and grass in the ear. What I particularly observed during the time of rearing was this—the parents were always very busy hunting the aviary wires, the turf, and the roof of an outhouse, over which the covered part of the aviary is erected—apparently in search of insect food (gnats, I suppose); and aphides from the rose trees and sweet peas planted against the wires outside.

My anxiety at this time was, I confess, very great, and my curiosity to see young Goldbreasts leave their nests, not a bit less. But for this I had to wait till the morning of *October 28th*, when to my delight I saw two tiny birds fly from the nest to the ground. They were fully fledged, had black beaks, and were of a uniform brown, with the exception of the under parts which were light in colour. Surely these healthy birds, in the pink of condition. would be reared! I never dreamed otherwise. But alas! there came a night when my spirits sank considerably below zero! It was the first day of November. The parents were anxious to nest again, and I suppose thought it high time their young should shift for themselves. Next morning I found one of the two dead—the other flying about as usual, and it continued doing so (apparently in the best of health) for another week or ten days, when it also succumbed. The old birds had built a new nest and obstinately refused to feed their young the last thing at night, or to admit them into their nest, so they fretted and died. Had they been fed a day or two longer, I feel convinced I should now be the proud possessor of a couple of outdoor-aviary-bred Goldbreasts.

Of course the season was too late to expect such birds to be reared, but I have strong hopes of being successful next season.

I may add that, in the same aviary I have been most successful in breeding Bengalese and Zebra Finches, having reared two nests of six and five of the former, and splendid birds, too. LUCY DUTTON.

THE WOOD-SWALLOW SHRIKES.

A correspondent asked a question about these birds in last month's NOTES, and, as they have recently been conspicuous at the leading Shows, I think it possible that a good many of our readers may be interested in a short account of them.

There are some eighteen species of the so-called "Wood-Swallows," distributed over Australia and the East Indies, with the exception of one species which occurs only in West Africa. Ornithologists differ as to their position in regard to other groups, but I believe most writers now place them next to the Shrikes and not far from the Drongos and the Waxwing. At the British Museum they are placed between the Finches and the Starlings, though Dr. Bowdler Sharpe admits that this is "artificial." He might well characterize it by a stronger word.

Most of the species are rather smaller than a Waxwing, The plumage is usually of a neutral tint. The bill is very Shrike-like, while the long wings remind one of the Swallows. They are woodland birds, and are said to be able to float nearly motionless in the air, and also to wheel and twist about like Swifts. "They hunt for insects, or sally after them from their perches, feeding also upon the ground on the larvæ and on seeds. Congregating like Swallows, they have in Australia a curious habit of hanging in ball-like masses from the branches ; the note is plaintive or chirping."

They appear to be very easy birds to keep in condition, provided they are healthy when they reach this country. Any good insectivorous mixture will suit them, and they are voracious feeders.

The only species which I have seen are the Sordid

Wood Swallow, the Masked, and the White-eyebrowed; and the first, and least beautiful, is the only which I have kept. Both my birds had suffered severely during importation and did not long survive—never getting into good condition. HORATIO R. FILLMER.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB'S DRAFT CLASSIFICATION FOR SHOWS.

Some months ago the Council of the Club prepared a series of classifications for the use of such Show Committees as cared to adopt them. One of these has, with some slight alterations, been adopted by the London and Provincial Ornithological Society for their forthcoming Show at the Crystal Palace.

These classifications are printed below in order that the members may have the opportunity of perusing and considering them, and suggesting amendments for adoption before the next Show Season.

CLASSIFICATIONS FOR FOREIGN BIRDS AT SHOWS,

PROVIDING 3, 4, 6, 9, & 12 CLASSES RESPECTIVELY.

NOTE.—Birds may be shewn either singly or in pairs in all classes (unless otherwise stated). A pair means two birds of the same species, but opposite sex.

THREE CLASSES.—A.

1. All species of Parrots (including Parrakeets, Love-birds, Cockatoos, Macaws, Lories, and Lorikeets).
2. All species of seed-eating finch-like birds, (including Grosbeaks, True Finches, Buntings, Whydahs, Weavers, Waxbills, Grassfinches, and Mannikins).
3. All species not comprised in the above (including insectivorous and fruit-eating birds, and Doves).

FOUR CLASSES.—B.

1. All species of Parrots (including Parrakeets, Lovebirds, Cockatoos, Macaws, Lories, and Lorikeets).
2. Common and Green Avadavats; St. Helena, Grey, Orange-cheeked, and Golden-breasted (or Zebra) Waxbills; Parson, Diamond, Ribbon, and Zebra Finches; Silverbills, Spice-birds, Grey Java Sparrows; Black-headed, White-headed, and Bronze Mannikins; Common, Orange, and Napoleon Weavers; and Common Combasous.
3. All species of seed-eating finch-like birds not comprised in the above (including Grosbeaks, True Finches, Buntings, Whydahs, Weavers, Waxbills, Grassfinches and Mannikins).
4. All species not comprised in the above (including insectivorous and fruit-eating birds, and Doves).

SIX CLASSES.—C.

1. All species of Parrakeets (including Kings and all Broadtails) Lorikeets, and Love-birds.
2. All species of Short-tailed Parrots, Cockatoos, Macaws, and Lories.
3. Common, and Green Avadavats, etc. (as in B. Class 2).
4. All species of seed-eating finch-like birds not comprised in the above (including Grosbeaks, True Finches, Buntings, Whydahs, Weavers, Waxbills, Grassfinches, and Mannikins).
5. All species of Tanagers, Sugar-birds, Honey-eaters, Zosterops, and Bulbuls.
6. All species not comprised in the above.

NINE CLASSES.—D.

1. Budgerigars and all species of Love-birds and Hanging Parrots.
2. All species of Parrakeets (other than Budgerigars, and including Kings and all Broadtails) and Lorikeets.

3. Grey Parrots and all species of Amazons.
4. All species of Short-tailed Parrots not comprised in the above, Cockatoos, Macaws, and Lories.
5. All species of Whydahs, Weavers, and Combasous.*
6. Common, and Green Avadavats, St. Helena, Grey, Orange-cheeked, and Golden-breasted (or Zebra) Waxbills; Parson, Diamond, Ribbon, and Zebra Finches; Silverbills, Spice-birds, Grey Java Sparrows; Black-headed, White-headed, and Bronze Mannikins.
7. All species of seed-eating finch-like birds not comprised in the above (including Grosbeaks, True Finches, Buntings, Waxbills, Grassfinches, and Mannikins).
8. All species of Tanagers, Sugar-birds, Honey-eaters, Zosterops, and Bulbuls.
9. All species not comprised in the above.

TWELVE CLASSES.—E.

1. Budgerigars and all species of Love-birds and Hanging Parrots.
2. All species of Parrakeets (other than Budgerigars, and including Kings and all Broadtails) and Lorikeets.
3. Grey Parrots and all species of Amazons.
4. All species of Short-tailed Parrots not comprised in the above, Cockatoos, Macaws, and Lories.
5. All species of Doves and Quails.
6. All species of Whydahs, Weavers, and Combasous.*
7. Common, and Green Avadavats, etc. (as in B. Class 2).
8. Bengalese, and White Java Sparrows.
9. All species of Waxbills, Grassfinches, and Mannikins not comprised in the above (including the

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* At Shows held after Christmas, it would be well to substitute for this Class one for Gouldian Finches, Parrot Finches, and Pin-tailed Nonpareils.

Parrot Finch, Pin-tailed Nonpareil, Gouldian Finch, Red-headed Finch, Bicheno's Finch, and Cherry Finch).

10. All species of Grosbeaks, True Finches, and Buntings (including the Cuba Finches and the Cardinals).
11. All species of Tanagers, Sugar-birds, Honey-eaters, Zosterops, and Bulbuls.
12. All species not comprised in the above.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER BOX.

BREEDING BUNTINGS.

SIR,—In answer to J. F., I should recommend another trial of the hen Nonpareil, for I have had one in my possession for more than five years, and what is more to the point, she not only went to nest three seasons ago, but hatched out two young ones. At that time my birds were being kept in an ordinary room with a south aspect, while their proper domicile was being built.

The Nonpareils in question were allowed the free run of the room, and, seeing them inclined to nest, I put some extra boughs in one corner, and left them to their own devices, with the above result. Unfortunately the cock bird (which was very old and was therefore known by the name of "Methuselah") died in the following winter, and though his place was filled up the hen refused to go to nest again. Far from being sickly, she is a better bird than either of her mates, but I am not prepared to say what might happen if they were kept in an outdoor aviary. Personally I do not think it quite fair on the Tropical and Sub-tropical birds to try to keep them out of doors all the year, and I do not think the experience can be any more agreeable to them than a winter in the Arctic regions would be to me.

C. B. D'EYNCOURT CHAMBERLAIN.

THE FORTHCOMING PALACE SHOW.

SIR,—I have just received the Schedule. I see that there is an interval of almost three weeks between the close of the entries and the Show: a week is quite long enough. Then there is the absurd system of consecutive numbering—1 to 1,000, with A, B, C, D, etc., thrown in occasionally. Why not number each class separately?

As to the Abrahams Memorial Trophy—how is the rarest bird to be decided upon? Is it to be the most rarely imported—however common it is in its native land? Or is it to be the rarest in its own country? We consider Grenate Finches very rare, but I am told they are common enough in certain parts of S. Africa—it is getting them down to the coast which is the difficulty.

W. OSBALDESTON.

THE CRESTED MYNAH.

SIR,—Having kept this bird several times I am able to reply to "Amazon's" query. "Jacob," my last and perhaps best specimen, was a right tame old chap. He would follow me about anywhere, and was allowed to fly in and out of his cage at will. A mealworm would always entice him out—often, he would come out of his cage and have a run round the aviary, surveying all as he went along. His inquisitiveness eventually cost him his life, as a Javan Parrakeet took a great dislike to him; in spite of which he persisted in venturing close to this Parrakeet's cage, until the latter managed to get hold of him, and, drawing him through the wire, bit his neck.

Crested Mynahs are quaint-looking birds. They have no song worth mentioning, but when they get attached to you, and you to them, their croak sounds pleasant. They are very easily kept on any soft food mixture—I use one of my own preparation. They are fond of a bath, and do not object to being washed.

In plumage this bird is very sombre, but the almost Leadbeater-like crest makes him look smart. He is about the size of an English Starling, though rather more robust But in general appearance he is a typical Starling.

W. OSBALDESTON.

WEAVER PLAYFELLOWS.

SIR,—I have two Weavers, an Orange and a Napoleon respectively, who are very good friends. They play "follow my leader," the Orange taking the lead and the Napoleon flying or hopping after him. Then if the Orange stops for a few minutes the Napoleon sidles up to him and peers at him, as much as to say "Ar'n't you going to play any more?" They are both cocks, and although there are several other Weavers in the same aviary they are quite content with each other's company.

I have not found Weavers pugnacious towards each other, but they often turn round and snap at smaller birds when within reach of them. A MEMBER.

A SHAMAH CONCERT.

SIR,—One cannot describe the effect of from 18 to 24 cock Shamahs all singing at the same time, but it has been my luck to experience this lately. I have still some ten males and a few females. The hens also sing a little, but their song is short. The dingy plumage of the female contrasts strongly with the neat brown body and rich jet black head and tail of the cocks—but they have quite as much go in them as the cocks, and it is not safe to keep even two hens together. Neither is it safe to keep a cock and hen together in a limited space, as they will often go for one another—but with plenty of room they soon establish amicable relations. No wonder that in India the natives keep Shamahs for fighting, as our forefathers did game cocks.

I can sit for hours and enjoy the song of a Shamah, he is a true songster, with plenty of music in him and variety without end. For a pet one could not have a more lovable bird—at one time bold and defiant, at others as docile as a lamb. He soon gets used to coming out of his cage and going back at will. Many a time I have seen one of mine catch a mealworm thrown to him while flying. I have kept Shamahs now for 15 years and should not like to be without one. W. OSBALDESTON.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

NEST BOXES.

Question.—I have a pair of Zebra Finches and a pair of Coral or Ribbon Finches, which lay, and bring the eggs out of the nest broken. One nest box is a cigar box on end, the other is a box 4½in. across and 7in. deep. Are the eggs broken by the birds dropping on them through the nest boxes being too deep?

Food: Canary, millet, and cuttle fish bone. Cage: 36in. by 36in. by 16in.—divided in the centre.

A. J.

Answer: I think you will find that if you supply plenty of hay the birds will generally fill up the box nearly to the level of the opening. But you might put in a handful of hay before hanging up the box. I don't think there is anything better than the cigar box nest.

You might also supply some finely crushed egg shell.

I think it most likely that the birds destroy the eggs intentionally, but it may happen that they were broken accidentally through the clumsiness of the birds or the thinness of the shells.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB MARKET.

The charge for advertisements is one penny for each bird named. Advertisements must be concisely worded, and clearly written on a separate sheet of paper, with the name and address of advertiser at the foot. The fee must in all cases be prepaid in stamps. The Hon. Sec. is authorised to decline Advertisements which he considers undesirable. Advertisements for the FEBRUARY issue must reach the Hon. Sec. not later than 11th February.

Cock Shâma in song, 35/-; hen Shâma, 40/-; Cockatiels, pair, adults, 14/-; Blue-front Amazon, 30/-; Double-front Amazon, 40/-; fine rare Yellow-naped Amazon, 60/-; Aeriel Toucan, 40/-; pair Nandy Parrakeets, 20/-; pair Brown-cheeked Conures, 12/6; pair Padoga Starlings, 12/6; Indian Weaver, 10/-, rare; Brown Buntings, 5/-.

W. OSBALDESTON, 2, St. John Street, Preston.

The Foreign Bird Club Market—continued.

Wanted—Hen Zebra Finch, aviary-bred; also one or two pairs small bright coloured foreign birds suitable for breeding in an aviary.

A. H. KELLETT, 84, Belvedere Road, Burnley.

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THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

Mr. E. R. PHILLIPS, 6, Park View, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Mr. JOHN ACUTT, 114, Upland Road, East Dulwich.

Mr. J. J. MUMFORD, The Poplars, Rockingham Road, Kettering.

Mr. J. H. HARRISON, Broad Oak, Lytham.

Countess GIULIA TOMMASI BALDELLI, 4, Via Silvio Pellico, Florence, Italy.

Mr. T. N. WILSON, Oak Lodge, Bitterne, nr. Southampton (Mem. Avic. Society).

NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED.

Mr. JOHN D. HAMLYN, 221, St. George Street East, London, E.

Mr. CHARLES TOMLINSON, South Cottage, Healey, nr. Rochdale.

Mr. A. H. Kellett, 84, Belvedere Road, Burnley.
Proposed by the HON. SEC.

Mrs. C. COOPER, Rosella, Dalberg Road, Brixton, S.W.
Proposed by Mr. FROSTICK.

As the Crystal Palace Show, on the 31st of January and the 1st, 3rd, and 4th of February, two silver medals will be offered by the Club. One for the best bird shewn by a member, in the Parrot Classes, and one for the best bird shewn by a member, in the other classes.
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Foreign Bird Notes

FOR FEBRUARY, 1902.

The Council of the Foreign Bird Club have decided upon a very important step, which, although somewhat revolutionary, has been taken after full consideration and in the belief that it will be for the benefit of the Club. The Club will join hands with the National British Bird and Mule Club so far as "Notes" is concerned: after this month "Foreign Bird Notes" will become "Bird Notes" simply, and about half its pages will be devoted to British birds. "Bird Notes" will be edited jointly by the Hon. Secretaries of the N. B. B. & M. C. and F. B. C.—all matter relating to British birds being sent to Mr. Lott, and all relating to Foreign birds to me. "Notes" will be printed in the same type and on the same size paper as at present, but it is hoped that the number of pages per month may be increased—this last will depend upon the energy of our contributors.

It will be the aim of the Editors to preserve the balance between British and Foreign, and to allot, on the average, about the same amount of space to each subject. But whether or not we shall be able to achieve this result depends upon the members of the two Clubs. If the members of either Club do not send in sufficient matter to fill their half of the publication, they must not complain if the space which they have failed to occupy is devoted to the other Club's hobby. If both Clubs keep the Editors well supplied with copy, we shall go on swimmingly, and each subject will be equally well represented. I hope I may rely upon the members of the F.B.C. to send in sufficient articles and correspondence to more than fill our half of "Notes"—but if this is to be so, matter must come in better than it has done during the last month or two.

Every member is entitled to a complete set of "NOTES," and, if there are any who have not received some of the back numbers, I shall be pleased to forward them on application.

The success of a periodical can generally be gauged by the degree of its success in attracting advertisers—it is therefore very gratifying to see the great increase this month in members' advertisements.

That examples of almost all species are sometimes dangerous is well known—but I was a good deal astonished to find that one of my Green Singing Finches had developed murderous tendencies. I placed this bird in a small bird-room aviary with three hen Canaries, with the result that the next morning one of the Canaries was dead—the scull having been fractured by blows from the beak of the Singing Finch, which is not much more than half the size of a Canary.

Doubtless all our readers have seen "Cage Birds," if there are any who have not, I advise them to order it at once. This new penny weekly is what bird-lovers have desired for many years, but they scarcely expected to see their wishes realised. Now that we have at last a paper devoted entirely to "birds" (for what aviculturist really consider poultry and pigeons to be "birds" at all ?) it behoves us to support it to the utmost of our power.

I trust, however, that all our members will put the claims of "BIRD NOTES," first. We must do what we can for "Cage Birds," but "BIRD NOTES" is our own, and we must remember that "charity begins at home."

HORATIO R. FILLMER,

Hon. Sec. FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

FOREIGN BIRDS AT THE PALACE.

Foreign-bird exhibiting seems to have fallen on evil days, and it is many years since such a poor show of "foreigners" has been seen at our premier British Bird Show. Only just over 150 entries—less than half the number which were entered a few years ago! And it cannot be contended that quality made up for lack of quantity, for there was a conspicuous lack of novelties and rarities.

It is likely that some people were deterred from exhibiting by fear of a repetition of the Arctic temperature to which the birds were exposed at the Palace in November last. This fear was not realised, for the Show was, as is usual in February, held in a large tent in the nave, and the temperature there was sufficiently high to make the wearing of an overcoat very uncomfortable.

Class 107. *Budgerigars and all species of Love-Birds.* First, Mr. Storey's well-known pair of Peach-faced Love-birds. Nothing seems able to beat these birds, which are rivaling the record of Miss Jackson's Cardinal, once so familiar to foreign bird exhibitors. Second, Mr. W. B. Smith's Budgerigars. Third, Mr. E. Thorne's Budgerigars. (We should have reversed these last two awards). Fourth, Mrs. Cooper's Madagascar Love-birds. V.H.C., Mrs. Cooper's Budgerigars. H.C., Mr. H. B. Smith's Peach-faced Love-birds. C., Mr. Hawkins' Budgerigars. 15 entries, two absent.

Class 108. *All species of Parrakeets and Lorikeets.* First, Mr. L. W. Hawkins' very good pair of Many-coloured. Second, the same gentleman's celebrated female Golden-shouldered Parrakeet, Third, Mr. T. C. Alderman's Crimson-wing—a remarkably fine specimen of this handsome species. Fourth, Mr. Hawkins' Blue Bonnet—a nice bird. V.H.C., Mr. Howe's King, and Mr. Housden's unattractive Conures. H.C., Mr. Oakey's very beautiful Port Lincoln, which might have been higher up, and a delightfully tame Orange-flanked Parrakeet belonging to Mr. Townsend. C., Mr. H. B. Smith's Plumhead and Crimson-wing, and Mr. A. E. Cheney's Blue Mountain Lorikeet. The Class also contained a Golden-crowned Conure, a Ring-necked Parrakeet, a pair of Pennants, an Alexandrine, an odd Pennant, a pair of Cockatiels, and some more Kings and Crimson-wings, including Mr. Doherty's pair of King Parrakeets, which have been seen at the Palace often before. It was a good Class of 21 entries, one absent. But it contained no novelties, nor, except the Golden-shoulder, any bird of special rarity.

Class 109. *Greys and Amazons.* Cancelled.

Class 110. *All species of Short-tailed Parrots, Cockatoos, Macaws, and Lories.* First, Mr. H. B. Smith's Red and Blue Macaw, which ought to know his way to the Palace by this time. No doubt he is a fine specimen, but we confess to a prejudice against Macaws in general, and this bird in particular. Second, Mrs. Cooper's Leadbeater, which is a good example of a species very easy to keep in Show form. No cards were awarded in this class, which contained besides, another good Leadbeater, a rather dowdy Blue-eyed Cockatoo, an indifferent hen Eclectus, a Forsten's Lorikeet (properly marked Wrong Class), and a taking little White-crested Cockatoo, of which we cannot give the name. Seven entries.

Class 111. *All species of Doves and Quails.* There were no Quails, but twelve entries of Doves made it a fairly good class so far as numbers go—for a Dove class. First, Mr. Housden's Wonga Wonga Pigeons—a grand pair of birds, though scarcely cage birds. Second, Mr. H. B. Smith's Bronze-wing. Third, Mr. Housden's bird of the same species. Fourth, Mr. H. B. Smith's Australian Crested Dove. V.H.C,, Mr. Housden's well-known old pair of Nicobars, in splendid feather, but very defective as to toe-nails. H.C., Mr. W. E. Parker's White-crowned Doves—strange and rather attractive birds, but not in perfect condition. C., Mr. H. B. Smith's pair of Nicobars. Mr. W. E. Parker exhibited several other rare Doves—all, unfortunately, in indifferent condition, and not well shown. 12 entries, three absent.

All the above classes were judged by Mr. Camps—the rest were judged by Mr. Swaysland.

Class 112. *Gouldian Finches, Parrot Finches, and Pintailed Nonpareils.* Cancelled.

Class 113. *Twenty named species of small Seed-eaters.* First, Mr. Hawkins' Diamond Finch, in splendid plumage, but obviously an aged bird with scaly legs. In consequence of its unsightly legs, and of its being a single bird only, we should have hesitated to give it the first place. Second, Mr. Hawkins' Golden-breasted Waxbills. Third, Mr. Goodiff's Ribbon-Finches. Fourth, Mr. Townsend's Bronze Mannikins, which might have been higher up. V.H.C., Mr. Hancock's Orange Bishop—very pale in colour; and Mr. Peters' Zebra Finches. H.C., Mr. W. B. Smith's cock Golden-breasted Waxbill, and Mr. Hawkins' Avadavats. Mr. Townsend's African Silverbills were deserving of notice. A Red-collared Whydah had, by some mistake, found its way into this class. There were 17 entries, of which two were absent. The class might have been expected to contain double this number of entries—and on the whole the quality of the exhibits was decidedly poor. The special prize offered to the member of the F.B.C. gaining most points in this class (not more than two eniries to count) was won by Mr. Hawkins.

Class 114. *Bengalese and White Java Sparrows.* Cancelled.

Class 115. *All species of Waxbills, Grassfinches, and Mannikins not comprised in the above.* First, Mr. Hawkins' fine pair of Rufous-tailed Grassfinches. Second, Mr. Hawkins' White-eared Grassfinches—not looking very well. Third, the same exhibitor's pair of Wiener's Waxbills, now well known on the Show bench, but still unique. Fourth, Mr. Townsend's pair of Lavender Finches—our choice for the second place. V.H.C., Mr. Picard's Aurora Finch and Mr. Miller's Bichino Finches. H.C., Mrs. Cooper's Long-tailed Grassfinches and Pectoral Finches. C., Mr. W. B. Smith's Cordon Bleus and Mrs. Cooper's excellent pair of Fire Finches. A good class—16 entries, one absent.

Class 116. *All species of Grosbeaks, True Finches, and Buntings.* First, Mr. H. B. Smith's Black-headed Buntings—unquestionably two cocks. Second, Mr. G. Henderson's Green Cardinal—good, but not very lively when we saw it. Third, Mr. Hawkins' Olive Cuba Finch—scarcely in show order. Fourth, Mr. Cooper's handsome Cardinal. V.H.C., Mr. Ollard's Virginian Cardinal and Mr. J. Harrison's Sulphur Seed-eater. H.C., Mr. Housden's Red-headed Cardinal. C., Miss R. Follett's Pope. This class also contained two pairs of Saffron Finches, one of which was worthy of being in the prize list; also another Pope, and some Green and Grey Singing Finches. One exhibitor had sent a Green and a Grey Singing Finch in the same cage—possibly he thought them different sexes of the same species! 14 entries.

Class 117. *All species of Tanagers, Sugar Birds, Honey-eaters, Zosterops, and Bulbuls.* First, Mr. Townsend's pair of Zosterops—a very good pair of the common Chinese species, most unwisely put over the heads of more meritorious exhibits—this was, in our opinion, the worst mistake made in the judging. Second, Mr. H. K. Picard's Superb Tanager; an exceptionally fine bird, but scarcely entitled to a higher position than the third and fourth prize winners. Third, Mr. Townsend's Archbishop Tanager, a very rare bird in perfect condition. Fourth, Mr. Swan's lovely White-capped Tanager. V.H.C., Mr. Townsend's Blue and Grey Tanager (which we think is the same as what the Zoological Society call the Silver Blue Tanager). H.C., Mr. Townsend's Malabar Green Bulbul. C., Mr. H. B. Smith's Warty-faced Honey-eater. The class also contained a Scarlet Tanager and a Red-crested Bulbul. We should have put the White-capped Tanager first, the Archbishop Tanager second, the Blue and Grey Tanager third, and the Superb Tanager fourth. An Indian Sun Bird entered by Mr. Townsend unluckily died soon after it reached the Show. This class of ten entries was the best in the Show, and contained some very valuable and interesting birds.

Class 120. *All species not comprised in the above.* All the prizes were won by Mr. Glasscoe, of Clapton. First, Grey Struthidea—the first time this species has been seen on the Show bench, to which it is not well adapted. Second, Masked Wood Swallow. Third, White-eyebrowed Wood Swallow. Fourth, Sacred Kingfisher. V.H.C., Mr. H. B. Smith's Red-headed Troupial. H.C., Mr. H. B. Smith's Purple-headed Glossy Starling. C., Mr. Oakey's Brazilian Troupial. The class also contained a Barbet and a cock Shamah. Nine entries. We fail to understand why the Judges always put the Masked Wood Swallow before the White-eyebrowed—we should reverse them.

The Club's Silver Medal for the best Parrot was awarded to Mr. H. B. Smith for his Macaw, and that for the best in Mr. Swaysland's classes to Mr. Picard for his Superb Tanager.

The Sugar Sifter presented by Mr. Oakey was awarded to Mr. Townsend for his Zosterops.

Mr. Glasscoe won the Abrahams' Memorial "Trophy" (which remains a mystery) with his Struthidea.

FOREIGN BIRDS:

THEIR ADAPTABILITY AND INDIVIDUALITY.

To the thoughtful and studious aviculturist, there are few phases of bird-life more interesting and lovable than that of the readiness of most of our foreign friends to adapt themselves to the altered conditions under which they must necessarily live in captivity, and the many distinct and charming little ways they possess, which often enable us to recognise them when other means fail, even when in the midst of a number of their fellows.

Examples of most species of foreign birds have, at some time or other, endured captivity, and in some instances they have taken so kindly to the loss of freedom as to live with us for a number of years, cases being on record in which they have even exceeded the probable age they would have reached in their wild state. I do not myself hold with the general opinion that this is entirely due to the intelligence and knowledge we ourselves show in dealing with our captives. That we have discovered and use food which is suitable for them is an undisputed fact; but that this is a *natural* food can easily be disproved by a little investigation into their habits in a wild and captive condition, and the question then is, why do we not supply them with their proper food? It is because, in a measure, of our ignorance as to what comprises their natural nourishment, and also because when we know the right food we are unable to supply them with it. Take almost any species of what we call seed-eating birds, and it will be found that by far the larger part of their natural food consists of insects. We are, therefore, at a great disadvantage in keeping such birds in the best condition ; but nevertheless, most of our seed-eating birds so readily adapt themselves to circumstances, that they often become as well nigh perfect in health and plumage as it is possible for them to be. Let me instance the Weavers, which are a pre-eminently seed-eating species according to our most learned writers : "Only needing a few mealworms now and again to keep them in condition." This we know to be true, yet I have times without number seen my Weavers making unceasing efforts to catch the common house fly, and woe betide the unwary insect which ventures within the wires of the aviary. I have also seen them minutely examining the crevices in the wall, and the leaves of shrubs, while now and again they leave their perch for an instant to dart seemingly into empty space, then wheel about and return to their resting place ; the only indication of the purpose of this apparently useless effort, being the satisfied manner in which they open and close their beaks for a second or two. And if these birds are so keen over insects in captivity, surely with no less avidity they make them their principal food in freedom.

Respecting insectivorous and fruit-eating birds. We are able, to a very great extent, to supply the needs of the latter with natural food, which is probably the reason why many of these delicate creatures are more hardy, when acclimatized, than some of the seed-eating species. which often suffer from constipation and liver disease. With other soft-billed birds, which should require a large number of insects to keep them in good health, we again labour under our inability to supply them with natural food —yet soft-billed birds, generally, are not more difficult to keep in captivity than fruit-eaters proper. Some may find the reverse to be the case in fact; but just consider for a moment what we offer most of these species: Fruit, correct. Bullocks liver, scraped beef, bread, potato, grated carrot, egg, and sometimes a heterogeneous mass of heaven knows what, called "Insectivorous food!" If, from the latter, we subtract a few dried flies and some ants "eggs" or cocoons, how much of the foregoing can the birds obtain in a state of liberty?

The longevity of our pets in captivity is of course considerably influenced by their constitution when captured, and general hardiness as a species. Climatic conditions, while guiding us in their treatment, are by no means an infallible test as to the amount of heat or cold a given bird will stand with health and safety to itself. To the uninitiated, it is a matter of surprise to be told, when seeing a bird in good condition, that its original home was in tropical Africa, or the forests of South America. And perhaps few of us realise what an immense difference exists in a bird's mode of life when transported from such a land, to a small prison in our bleak island.

And now first let me pass to the other and perhaps more popular side of a bird's nature, viz., its individuality, To the vast majority of people, who are not aviculturists, a bird is simply a bird. To those, however, who find keen enjoyment in the company of birds, they are personal creatures, each with ideas and manners peculiar to itself. To thoroughly grasp and appreciate this fact needs a close and watchful eye on their actions; and in a large aviary, containing a proportionate number of birds, it is almost an impossibility to learn their respective characteristics, unless one has special reasons to single out and mark the doings of any particular specimen. But if, owing to circumstances or choice, some have their pets in their own rooms, this pleasant feature of bird life is easily and quickly noted. Each have their little traits which are often sufficient to their owner to distinguish them from their cage-mates. Of course in some birds these traits are more pronounced than in others, and where we fail to notice any it is simply because the little mannerisms are too minute for our eyes to note ; but they are undoubtedly prominent to their feathered companions.

The most prominent distinction, by which we know our birds, are those of plumage and tameness, and it generally requires but little observation to identify them by these means, unless several of the same species are in the aviary together. Then it is that our close observations stand us in good stead and enable us to identify them with certainty. Among the more common and more easily noticed actions, is a liking for a particular perch by one bird, another has a pronounced peaceful or pugnacious disposition, another is full of energy, while others may be just the reverse : yet another may delight in, or have a marked antipathy to bathing, and I have known some birds have a preference for one particular seed pan. No doubt a few minutes reflection will readily recall to our minds some of the pretty little ways by which we learnt to love and remember our tiny friends. Personally I can remember many of my pets now, alas ! no more, by the intelligent little mannerisms they had. Particularly do I recall a certain cock Zebra Finch. Within a short time of coming into my possession this engaging mite would always fly to meet me whenever I went near his house, and getting on the perch nearest to me, he would chatter away like an M.P. Then hop, skip and away for a seed or a drink, and back again more voluble than before. Many a long discussion did we have, and I had hard work at times to get a word in edgeways, for he would not be talked down. And if I learnt nothing but a deeper and more affectionate liking for the whole feathered race, and himself in particular, I consider my time as by no means illspent, for was I not conversing with nature through that small bundle of feathers? I used to look forward to these little chats, and so I think did he, for he never disappointed me, and now—poor little "Imp" has gone.

One might compile a book respecting this individuality in birds, but a few more instances among my own friends may suffice. Weavers are great favourites of mine, and, I think, possess intelligence in a marked degree: who can see their nests and doubt it? But I am dealing with matters which are not always intelligible to ourselves. For instance one of my Orange Bishops has a trick of closing the eye which is turned to the front of the aviary. At first I thought it might be a cold—but no—he turned round soon after and closed the other. Then thought I, he closes them both; but like the stag in the fable, he keeps his weather eye open, and knows all that goes on among his friends. Another Orange Bishop has such a sleek and prosperous air, and a decided disinclination for too much exercise, that he passes for the "Alderman."

A Crimson-crowned Bishop is a very good natured fellow, and is quite content to pass his time laying the foundations of new nests—and there he leaves them and starts another. A Napoleon, appropriately enough, tries to accomplish the task of completing these many pieces of architecture, but never has time to finish one on account of the many that require his attention. Another Crimson-crowned Weaver has a shocking temper, and a short time ago his head and neck was almost bare of feathers through his successive "mills," As he finds he doesn't always get matters his own way, he has quieted down considerably lately, and seems to be reflecting on the situation. And perhaps it is time, when a small Zebra Finch gives him a good thrashing first, and then lectures him on his conduct afterwards! Then there is a

Saffron Finch who is a confirmed "tippler," though seemingly in the best of health. And why should a certain Black-headed Mannikin prefer to have a shower bath when his companions bathe, rather than do as they and have a bath of his own? Or a Bengali distinguish himself and get dubbed "Diogenes," simply because he chose to pass his time in an ornamental straw nest? Or a —but no, I must not trespass further on our limited space, beyond congratulating Miss Alderson on her Shamah, which is certainly a very good mathematician, and another instance of individuality in birds.

One more instance, and this time a perfectly understandable one occurs to me. Why should one of my Grey Singing Finches always sleep leaning against a perch, or the wires of the aviary? And the reason in this case is because he has only one leg—and a very good reason too, don't you think? J. A. SWAN.

THE OLIVE CUBA FINCH.

Phonipara olivacea.

Having received a pair of these, which I bought as ordinary Cuba Finches—I think a few notes on them may interest some of our members.

They are about the size of the common Cuba Finch and are much the same in habits and general appearance, but differ from them greatly in colour, in both sexes. The yellow collar, which is such a striking feature of the Cuba Finch, is absent—but there is, in the cock, a bright orange patch under the beak, forming a bib, also an orange streak from the base of the bill over the eye. In the female these orange markings are replaced by yellowish white.

So far, I have heard no approach to a song—in fact, hardly a twitter.

These birds have been bred in Scotland in a cage 18″ × 12″ × 14″, with a small flower pot as a nest box. The pot had a hole, one inch square, in the lip of it, and cowhair and grass were supplied as building materials. The first nest was a failure, but the second time they reared four young. Food while breeding—spray and white millet, and canary seed, and plenty of good chickweed—both while fledging and after, which I consider very essential to success.

The Olive Cuba Finch is much more rarely imported than the other species. Most specimens of both kinds reach England by way of Marseilles. I have been told that Cuba Finches can be bought in Marseilles for four or five shillings a pair, while here they fetch 25/-.

I intended to exhibit my Olive Cubans at the recent Palace Show, as well as a Bengal Pitta in fine form, but I could not take them, nor get them taken, and I would not risk their lives by entrusting them to the tender mercies of the Railway Company.

W. OSBALDESTON.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Question.—I have a hen Cordon Bleu who is losing all her feathers and apparently making no attempt to grow new ones. Otherwise she appears to be in excellent health. She is fed on millet and canary and occasionally a little soft food. Temperature of room never below 55°. Other birds in same flight-cage seem all right.

Can you tell me what treatment to adopt? H. K. P.

Answer.—"Baldness" in birds results from a variety of causes, but is usually a symptom of impaired general health. Keeping the birds for a time at a considerably higher temperature would very likely cause the feathers to grow, I presume you supply baths, fine gravel or flint grit, and lime in some form, such as crushed egg-shell or cuttle bone. Give plenty of spray millet, or similar seed sold in bulk—also a little water-cress. A few drops of "Ferrocal" in the drinking water may do good. The treatment should be directed towards improving the general health and building up the strength. But "baldness" is a very intractable complaint, and in many cases resists all treatment.

THE EDITOR'S LETTER BOX.

A HOMING ZEBRA FINCH.

SIR,—I have a pair of Zebra Finches which are most amusing—they are so sturdy and full of life. One day, last month, the hen managed to get into a water-bottle which had been placed inside the cage. The cock made such a noise that it attracted my attention, but as I reached the cage he succeeded in overturning the water-bottle and rescued the little hen more dead than alive. As she could not move I put her in a small cage by the fire, and in a couple of hours she recovered.

The next day, a bitterly cold one, the cock flew out of the window and went straight towards the sea. I gave him up for lost, but in case he might be in the neighbourhood, I set the cage in an open door of the verandah in the hope that his mate's shrill "penny trumpet" call would attract him. She kept up an incessant "pamp, pamp, pamp," for three hours, at the end of which time I went into the room and found a tired sooty little object sitting on the top of the cage—the cock had found his way home.

Since then they have built a nest with cotton wool and bits of pink silk. I gave them a variety of nesting material, and they chose little strips of pink silk, and took one piece about three inches square, with which they cover their eggs as nicely as one would spread a counterpane on a bed. If I take it away, the cock puts it back again.

I am able to observe the doings of my birds, as I keep them in large cages in my studio.

ALYS V. GORTER.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB MARKET.

The charge for advertisements is one penny for each bird named Advertisements must be concisely worded, aud clearly written on a separate sheet of paper, with the name and address of advertiser at the foot. The fee must in all cases be prepaid in stamps. The Hon. Sec. is authorised to decline Advertisements which he considers undesirable. Advertisements for the MARCH issue must reach the Hon. Sec. not later than 15th March.

I have a pair each of the following rare doves for disposal—White-crowned Dove (*Columbo leucocephala*), Violet Dove (*Eugyphta lamaicus*).

W. E. PARKER, The Beacon Farm, Frodsham.

Cock Redrump, 15/-; Tui Parrakeet. 20/-; hen Passerine Dove, 5/-; hen Saffron Finch, 3/-; cock Cutthroats, 1/9 each. All in outdoor aviaries.

G. GRACE, 24, Wood Street, Wakefield.

Acclimatized Scarlet Tanagers, 25/-; Chinese Bulbul, 20/-; Rosella, 20/-; Peach-faced Love-birds, 40/- pair; Russian Bullfinch, with show-cage, 2nd Aquarium, 17/6; dark Linnet mule, with show-cage, 17/6; Pied Wagtail, 6/6; Jay, 5/6; Ring-Dove, 1/3; Cutthroats, Avadavats, Weavers, 3/6 pair; White Java Sparrows, 5/6. JOHN FROSTICK, Temperley Road, Balham.

All outdoor aviary—Blue Robins, 20/- pair; Cockatiels, 15/- pair; Virginian Nightingales, 22/- pair; Australian Crested Doves, 20/- pair; Pileated Jays, 21/- each; Black-throated Laughing Thrushes, 30/- each; Spectacled Thrush, deformed foot, 15/-; Australian Shrike, rare, 40/-; Zebra Doves, 6/6 pair; Zebra Finches, 5/- pair; Zebra Waxbills, 5/-; African Quails, 5/- pair; Java Sparrows, Mannikins, Spice-birds, etc., 3/6 pair; Weavers, 4/6 pair; Redrumps, 35/- pair; Peafowl, cock's tail *three parts grown*, 50/- pair. Indoors—Golden-crown Green Fruit-suckers, full song, feed from hand, 35/- each; Purple-capped Lories, 40/- each; Chattering Lory, good talker, 60/-. May be seen any time by appointment.

ARTHUR GILL, Veterinary Surgeon,
Bexley Heath, Kent.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

Mr. John D. Hamlyn, 221, St. George Street East, London, E.

Mr. Charles Tomlinson, South Cottage, Healey, nr. Rochdale.

Mr. A. H. Kellett, 84, Belvedere Road, Burnley.

Mrs. C. Cooper, Rosella, Dalberg Road, Brixton, S.W.

Mr. F. C. Thorpe, Dronfield, Sheffield. (Mem. Avic. Society).

Mr. G. Le C. Grace, 24, Wood Street, Wakefield. (Mem. Avic. Society).

NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED.

The Hon. Frederick Wallop, 46, South Street, Park Lane, W. *Proposed by* Mr. Frostick.

Mr. Talbot H. Bond, Aylsham, Norfolk.
Proposed by the Hon. Sec.

Mr. Frank Howe, 35, Cambridge Street, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire.
Proposed by Mr. Frostick.

One of the Club's Medals will be offered for competition at the Dublin Show, on the 7th and 8th of March.

"MEATING OFF" AND FEEDING SOFT-BILLS.

By John Frostick.

Many fanciers of our British birds make a speciality of this or that particular species, and stick to it to the exclusion of all others ; for instance, one man pins his faith to Goldfinches, another to Linnets, another to Larks, and so on ; and although enthusiastic on the particular merits of his own favourite bird (of which he will be able to tell you many interesting things, of the existence of which you were in total ignorance) you will find, as a rule, that outside of the sphere of his special fancy his knowledge ceases. The fact is, he is a specialist of the most pronounced type, and all outside his specific study has no interest for him. To lovers of all wild birds in general, amongst whom I hope to be classed, the narrowness of his ideas is somewhat difficult to understand : still he is an interesting character, and one from whom we may many times receive much valuable information.

Soft-bills have always had a great attraction for me from childhood, although I was not then able to keep them on a diet of breadcrumbs and earthworms, for reasons which were quite plain to me as I grew in years, and I had many ups and downs, successes and disasters, and spent much time and money before I arrived at the conclusions I now place before you. I have every confidence in recommending the treatment arrived at after years of careful study, and although not a specialist of the above type, I have always had a strong leaning towards insectivorous birds.

I do not think any real lover of our native song birds can long be satisfied with keeping only the hard-billed or seed-eating kinds ; not but that such have many advantages over soft-bills in the ease with which they may be kept in confinement in robust health and condition, and the good qualities of our many beautiful finches are manifold. The primary object of this paper is to point out to the budding aviculturist how he may, with the exercise of a little judgment, be able to keep, in a cage or aviary, any one of the many delicate but charming warblers that claim these Islands as their abode either for part or the whole year round, with as little or less trouble than is required to keep a Goldfinch; and moreover may have the satisfaction of knowing that, under his tender care, there is every probability of his charge living to a much greater age than would be possible in a purely natural state.

It is a curious fact that all the finest feathered minstrels or gorgeously plumaged birds, in all parts of the world, come under the above heading. Who could listen to the soul inspiring love song of our own delightful summer visitor the far famed Nightingale, or the Shâma of India, the Bulbul of Persia, the Mocking Bird of America, the Parson Bird of New Zealand; or gaze on the marvellous colours of the Tanagers of South America, the Tits, Creepers and Kingfishers of Australia, the Touracos of Africa, the Hunting Crow of India, not to mention many of our brightly coloured birds like the Kingfisher and Blue Tit, painted with Nature's glorious tints that no human hand could approach; and not long to have the means and knowledge how to keep them ever near him, that his artistic instincts might be gladdened by their form, colour and music?

One of the most gratifying signs of the times, to the ornithologist, is the great increase of the interest and attention paid, by the general public, to birds in general and the more delicate kinds in particular. Where a few years ago there were tens of "fanciers," there now may be counted hundreds. At the time of which I speak such birds as Nightingales, Blackcaps, Redstarts, and Wagtails were very rarely seen at a provincial show, but now they are every day occurences, and even the more delicate Warblers, Tits, and Wrens are frequently seen. No doubt this is largely owing to the help and assistance such an useful institution as the National British Bird and Mule Club, and the various publications devoted to the fancy, have been in educating those who have a leaning towards this charming branch of bird keeping.

At the outset let me strongly advise anyone not to attempt to keep soft-bills unless he can give them his personal attention, and has prepared himself for some amount of hard work, and, it must be admitted, expense; but if the embryo naturalist keeps only as many birds as he can afford time to attend to the requirements of, and the means to pay for the food of, all will go well, and the hard work will only be a labour of love.

Before we buy or catch our bird it will be as well to consider the most important question of FOOD. The various ingredients which go to make up a really natural diet are as easy to procure nowadays, almost everywhere, as canary seed, and of a better quality than, and at half the cost of, a few years back. The first and most valuable article on the list is what are commonly known as ANTS' EGGS, which are really the pupæ of the ant (*Formica rufa*) in its silken covering called by entomologists a cocoon. They form a handy and indispensible food for all insectivorous birds, in their dried state, as imported from Russia and Germany. These should be as fresh as possible, at most not more than a year old, or their dietetic value is little more than sawdust: therefore it is always good economy to buy the best, which can always be told by their plump creamy appearance and oily touch; whereas the worthless kind will be a dark brown small shrivelled piece of skin. Those of my readers who live close to the pine woods could not do better than collect their own ants' eggs fresh from the nest, as, of course, I need hardly say they are very much better than the dried article, and so long as they can get them their birds will require no other food, and the gathering will provide healthful and profitable occupation for leisure moments. Choose a fine sunny summer day, and, having found your nest, draw a pair of footless stockings over your arms and stout gloves on your hands, to protect you from the stings of the insects, the acid from which is very painful and smarts like the sting of nettles. Commence by gently uncovering the nest until you arrive at the eggs, place these in a glazed linen bag until you have sufficient, then take them to some sunny glade in the wood and empty the bag of its contents, ants and eggs, into the centre of a cloth whose corners are turned up over little branches well covered with leaves. The ants, in order to protect the eggs from the heat of the sun, quickly remove them under the shelter which is provided for them; the eggs can then be collected perfectly free from dirt, sticks, or ants. In the absence of a cloth a smooth place may be swept clear of refuse, and little harbours of branches and leaves placed around will answer the same purpose.

DRIED FLIES, so called, are now largely imported from Mexico, and are of much better quality than formerly. Although called "dried flies," and also by another fancy name, they are really an aquatic insect belonging to the genus *Notonecta*. The British representative of the family (*Notonectidæ*) is known as the water-boatman, from the formation of the back, which is shaped like the bottom of a boat, and the long hind legs which much resemble a miniature pair of oars. They swim on their backs, and their eyes are so placed that they can see above and below the surface of the water, and instantly descend on the approach of danger. I am informed that in Mexico they swarm on the lakes and lagoons in countless myriads, and are collected, dried, and exported by the ton. Many small fish seem to get gathered with the "bugs," and they impart a very decided fishy smell to the whole. Although I have used a large quantity, I do not feel in a position to say anything for or against "dried flies" as a food for birds; as a change they may have a certain value, but how much I must leave to the reader to discover.

MEALWORMS now only cost a fifth part of what they did ten years ago, owing to the large quantities we receive from Germany: the competition bringing down the price to such a very reasonable one that, personally, I do not think it worth while to breed them—but, as others might like to do this, I give the *modus operandi*.

Fill a large earthenware jar with bran or meal of any kind, and put in a few layers of old sacking which should be occasionally soaked in stale beer; stock your jar with a pint of worms, and leave them alone for three months in a warm corner, when they will probably change into beetles (*Tenebrio molitor*) which lay eggs that turn into worms, and thus the insect is propagated, and increased from the original pint to many quarts. Of course they will require additions of meal as they grow in bulk. They are a most useful and nourishing food and certainly rank next to ants' eggs in value.

To be Continued.

THE SMALL-BILLED PARRAKEETS.

The genus *Brotogerys* contains eleven species, one or two of which are now commonly imported, and several of the others are occasionally to be met with. Russ calls them "the Small-billed Parrakeets,"—the name is convenient, and certainly much more appropriate than the scientific name *Brotogerys*, which means "gifted with human voice." They are all of them small, hardy, easily tamed, and remarkably intelligent—certainly there are no other *small* parrots equally amusing and suited to cage life. But they are not talkers, though possibly one of them might learn a word or two.

They are not very well adapted to the large outdoor aviary, as they are somewhat quarrelsome and do not endure cold well—but in a roomy cage, or in a small indoor aviary all to themselves, a pair will be found to make most amusing pets. While one kept singly, like the Orange-flanked Mr. Townsend wrote about some months ago, would doubtless get still tamer and more familiar with his human friends.

Canary-seed should be their staple diet, varied with a few oats and hempseeds. They are very fond of fruit, and some biscuit or stale sponge cake is good for a change.

The prevailing colour in all these species is green, and the sexes are alike.

The Tovi Parrakeet (*Brotogerys jugularis*) is by far the most common kind. It is distinguished by an orange spot on the chin. This jolly little bird can now be bought for a few shillings.

The All-green Parrakeet (*B. tirica*), the name of which is a sufficient description, has lately been imported in considerable numbers. It is a larger bird than the Tovi, and scarcely so attractive.

The Canary-winged Parrakeet (*B. chiriri*) has a broad band of canary-colour across the wing, and is the most ornamental of all the Small-billed Parrakeets. It is about the same size as the All-green. Decidedly uncommon, and somewhat expensive — but a most desirable bird.

The Orange-flanked Parrakeet (*B. pyrrhopterus*), has the sides of the head and chin grey, and the smaller under wing-coverts orange. It is a pretty bird and one of the most attractive of the group. About the same size as the Tovi. Some years ago it was considered a great rarity, but now, although by no means common, it is often seen.

The Tui Parrakeet (*B. tui*) is the smallest of all. It may be known by the yellow spot on the top of the head It seems to be less hardy than the others. It is, I think, considerably rarer than the Orange-flanked. A very charming little creature.

Besides the above, there are the Yellow-winged (*B. virescens*), the Golden-fronted (*B. tuipara*), the Golden-winged (*B. chrysopterus*), and three other species. All of these are extremely rare.

All the Small-billed Parrakeets are natives of South America.

RANDOLPH QUIN.

BRITISH BIRDS AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

So far as numbers were concerned there was a marked falling off in comparison with last year, when the N. B. B. and M. C. guaranteed the whole of the British Bird and Hybrid section, including many new Classes which had never been given before, with the result that the Show was a pronounced success. This year our Club were never even approached upon the subject, which to say the least was disappointing and discouraging; but, notwithstanding, there was a goodly array of British Birds and Hybrids. It seems that nothing is easier than to find fault, but we do not do so in any but a kindly spirit, and even our worthy Vice-President, Mr. J. F. Hills, told us, in a lecture, many years ago, that on going the round of the Show after judging he would oftentimes have altered his awards: birds are often not themselves till many hours after the judging has taken place.

The *Bullfinch* Class contained some fine specimens of British Bullfinches, but we are of opinion that the land of birth of many of the exhibits was far removed from England. We have now a standard of what a British Bullfinch should be, and hope to see those foreign looking birds left out entirely, and we were glad to notice that the judge left most of them out. It is no light task for a judge to find the best bird out of a class of 42; but nobody can dispute, I venture to say, that the judge found the first prize, Mr. S. McLaughland's, a real extra fine Britisher. 1349, Mr.Massey's, looked like a house-moulted specimen and a noted winner. 1379 we thought a good one. 1384 was one of the best coloured in the Class, but this poor bird could hardly move from perch to perch for the dirt accumulated on his feet. 1388 was another good bird not mentioned. Only six of our members showed in this Class.

The *Goldfinches* for quality were almost as tip top as ever, although not many in number (66). Three years ago as many as 90 finches were staged. The judge, we opine, found out all the gems. 1403, a beautiful bird, but the blaze very light. 1407, a good all round finch. 1410, one of the finest and biggest under-blazes we remember seeing. 1428, a good runner up but not staged so well. 1453, Mr. Weston's, as good as any in the Class. The staging generally in this Class appealed to us as being as near perfection as could be; very few of the heavy old-fashioned type of show cages were seen.

Chaffinches (34 against 31 last year). The first prize we could not follow at all, a very steady bird indeed, but it lacked all the colors that a Chaffinch should show. 1458, Mr. Ball's, for size, plumage, and other points, ought to have been higher up. 1461, Mr. Norman's, should be heard of again ere another season is over. 1469, a bright little gem, but unsteady. 1472, the best bird in the Class for a white display. 1479, rare size but wild. The second and third prize winners were in the right place.

Linnets. 57, and only eight club members in the number, a collection of many provincial winners. We made 1513, Mr. Prior's, easily second or third, but there were many other noted birds in this Class. 1501, Mr. Robinson's, was remarkable for size. Most of the birds were of great merit.

Twites. Nothing out of the way, and only eight of these; last year there were 12. Mr. Lloyd James's bird was rather small but with good markings. 1540, a big bird, but looked abnormally fat.

Lesser Redpolls. A medium lot of 13, against 20 last year; several of them looking like small Mealies. "Swansea Tim" was a pretty little house-moulted specimen. 1546, Mr. Robbins', should have been higher up: a well-marked specimen.

Siskins, 24, and only five members making entry. The winner was a highly color-fed bird, and not well marked. We much preferred the second prize winner, also color-fed. Most of the birds were fresh caught and showed to advantage the cap markings.

Bramblefinches, 17, last year totalling 25. Here we were all at sea as to the judging; the first prize winner being a very poor bird, the mantle showing more grey than black, but very steady. Second and third were far away the best. 1583, Miss Paull's, was the best in the Class. 1589, Mr. Adams', should have been higher up; in fact, three or four others were better than the winner, claimed at 12/6.

Hawfinches. To our thinking the first three were a very even lot indeed, all looking in the best of form, feather, sheen and color. We were sorry to see 1605, Mr. Raine's, without a card—a grand old winner looking well. The birds in this Class were splendidly staged.

Greenfinches, same number as last year. Some grand birds in this Class, many of them great winners, were left without a card. We made extra fourth easily first, and it has often beaten the winner.

Buntings. One of the best arrays of Buntings for quality we have ever seen. Second, third, and fourth seemed very level, and it was a mere lottery which was to be first.

Skylarks, only 7, against 19 last year, but it appeared to us that if there had been 50 the first three in this Class would have won—they were superb.

Robins. A small Class of poor quality, but all seemed very steady, and cheerful too, for most of them were singing.

Blackbirds. Some great winners met here for final contest. We much preferred the second; 1679 surely ought to have been higher up.

Thrushes were a very even lot of birds. Here, again, were well known winners from all parts of the kingdom. To us it seemed a very difficult matter for the judge to give satisfaction to the exhibitors. 1688 was hardly done by, and 1695 should be heard of again.

Starlings are always a perfect conundrum to us as far as judging goes. So far as the winner was concerned we much preferred several of the cardless ones. Last year's winner, if we remember rightly, was perfectly covered with spots, this year's winner was very bare indeed—a bone of contention when we reach the standard of the Starling.

Magpie, Jackdaw, Jay or Chough (cancelled). A British bird show without any of the above seems to us out of order, they are such well known public favorites. We would sooner look at a dozen of these birds than have to scan the long row of Linnets and other dull coloured (but not less favourite) birds. We think that at a place like the Crystal Palace the authorities should insist upon certain Classes being given, which always prove of special interest to the general (non-fancying) public.

The *Pied and Albino* Class is always an interesting one. We missed last year's winning curiosity, the half hen and half cock Bullfinch. The winner this year was one of the most perfect specimens of a Cinnamon Thrush that it has ever been our lot to look upon—a perfect gem. Second, was a Missel-thrush, and not a Fieldfare as stated in the Catalogue, as its well known and harsh call clearly indicated to us while writing our notes. Third, a very ordinary black Bullfinch, should have been given to a very pretty exhibit—Mr. May's 1715, a Pied Robin, very steady and looking well.

Class 105. Here were Missel-thrushes, Green Woodpeckers, Wrens, Greater Spotted Woodpeckers, Blue Tits, etc.,—a most uncanny mixture, and most discouraging to exhibitors. Another year a good Class should be made up of Missel-thrushes alone, if due notice be given. We could not make out the third prize being given to a Crossbill right out of color, though steady, and only a commended card to a very rare and perfect specimen of a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker—small encouragement here to attempt the keeping of the rarer species. Classes for some of the rarer birds should stand, at the expense of the Goldfinches, Linnets, etc. if necessary.

Class 106. A very pretty Class, the awards giving fairly good satisfaction. The Blue-headed Wagtail was again first, and a grand Nightingale second. 1747, Mr. Galloway's Willow Warbler, was a very pretty exhibit.

We notice the feeding of the smaller insectivorous birds was very good and unstinted, the birds were well looked after, and the tent was kept at a most agreeable temperature. W. A. LOTT.

THE TOUCANS.

These birds, of which a good many are from time to time imported, are not appreciated by aviculturists as they should be. Their feeding is, perhaps, a drawback; but their docility, affection, and winning ways endear them to those who, like myself, have had much experience with them. I have had, at different times, some ten specimens, ranging from the small Lettered Toucans to the largest species imported.

I have at present two Aracari Toucans, and lively customers they are—so fond of fun. One especially will, as soon as I put my hand into his cage, make a dash at it to give it a peck, and then like lightning fly over to the other side of the cage and set up a cackle of delight at having had me. If I then offer him a grape, he soon comes to me again, this time in a subdued and grateful mood. I often let them out in the room, when they have a walk round, pry into corners, and enjoy themselves very much. There is no trouble in getting them back into their cages, as they allow themselves to be handled freely.

Besides the above, I have two Green-billed Toucans, a very beautiful species, larger than the Aracari. The colouring of the beaks of these after death fades away—so that when they are stuffed the inner side of the transparent beak has to be painted to represent the original colour. When my Green-bills arrived, in a box 14ins. square, they were simply skin and dirt—more of the latter than of the former. They were very young, quite babies in fact, when I got them. It was most amusing to see their stunted tails grow, as well as their featherless bodies. Their tails were long lacking—and the tail is an amusing detail in Toucans, for when they sleep it is swivelled up on to the back in a most comical style. Although apparently not worth house-room when they reached me, these birds are now in grand order, plump, tame, and as playful as kittens, and will follow me about anywhere. Recently, I had also an Ariel Toucan.

Toucans are fond of a bath or syringe, which, owing to the nature of their food, is often required to keep them clean. They greatly appreciate grapes, which they swallow whole, taking them up with the tip of the bill, tossing them up and catching them in the open bill and swallowing them. All food is taken in a similar way.

Their staple diet consists of boiled potatoes, grapes, chopped apples, pears, bananas, soaked currants, and plenty of soft food mixture.

All Toucans are very sparcely feathered, entirely lacking the downy substance which protects Parrots from the cold. When well fed they they are very little trouble to keep in health, but cleanliness is essential.

They cannot bite severely, but can give an ugly pinch when irritated, and have a knack of twisting the skin round.

W. OSBALDESTON.

SOME NOTES ON THE HYBRID SECTION AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE SHOW.

Our British Bird Club Hon. Sec., Mr. W. A. Lott, requests me to write a few notes about the Hybrid Section at the recent Palace Show.

Before going into the Show and reviewing these classes, I beg to say that my remarks are inspired by facts, and that a large circle of friends from various parts wrote to me begging me to visit the Show. I have a *strong weakness*—(rather paradoxical this)—for visiting Cage Bird Shows, so it did not require much influence to prevail upon me to be there. I went, and I saw many persons and things, a few of which I will now do my best to relate to you.

First of all, I saw two or three alterations in the Hybrid Classes from last year. There was one class instead of two, this year, for Canary hybrids approaching the highest standard of perfection, viz., "clear or lightly ticked." Mr. R. Colton, of Sheffield, had placed on view three of the six birds entered, but he bowed the knee—and to a lady—from Coldstream, N.B., for premier honours in this class.

The "Evenly Marked" (and the second standard of perfection) Class (ten entries) contained three good ones, standing well away from the rest. The next two classes were improved in a small, but very important way, upon last year, and the addition of the words "or variegated" made the wording of these classes very clear and definite. In the Yellow Class we saw that the bird standing first had apparently a blemish on the "saddle," just above the left wing inner flights, some feathers being missing and new pens beginning to appear. This bird was carrying "dark" feathers on that spot last year, which feathers made the bird into a very lightly variegated mule in my opinion. By the absence of those "dark" feathers at the late Show, the bird was, in my opinion, transformed into an unevenly marked mule. I much preferred the 2nd bird on the days form. Most of the remaining birds in this class were rather heavily variegated and call for little comment.

The Variegated Buff Class brought together seventeen birds, and ten or twelve of these were very good specimens of the nondescript character, and the running for honours was very close, little dividing the first four.

The next two classes, "Dark Yellow" and "Dark Buff" Goldfinch-Canary were not so well filled as we would like to have seen for these (the third standard of perfection) classes. Both classes contained fine specimens, the " Yellows " having the pull in this respect. The next four classes, viz.: Greenfinch-Canary; Linnet-Canary, other than Clear, or Lightly Ticked; Siskin, Redpoll, or Twite-Canary hybrid; and any other variety of Canary hybrid; all would have been more definitely worded and coincided with the Clear, or Lightly Ticked Class, if they had all read at the end, " other than Clear or Lightly Ticked." The inference is obvious enough, viz.: that where the wording of one class leaves off the other ought to begin. I will, in passing, say, that there is a very popular opinion among hybrid breeders and exhibitors, that all "Self Darks" ought to have classes to themselves. There were some half-dozen in the Greenfinch-Canary Class, in capital feather and condition. The winner was well ahead, and here is where we do not get equitable competition, as compared with the Goldfinch-Canary Classes.

Exactly the same remarks apply to the Linnet-Canary Class, which was about the strongest class for all round merit in the hybrid section.

I have seen very good classes of Siskin-Canary alone —much better than the mixed class this year, and I am of opinion that " Siskin-Canary, Dark," ought to be a class of itself and would pay well, and that the Redpoll-Canary and Twite-Canary should go into the A.O.V. Canary-hybrid Class. The A.O.V. Canary hybrid, contained two entries—not for competition,—one entered as a Canary-Bullfinch by Miss Reeves, Wateringbury Hall, Kent, and the other a one-winged Canary, entered by Mr. D. Symon, Glenhill House, Aberdeen, but absent.

The next, Class 84, was limited to three of the Bullfinch hybrid crosses, viz.: Goldfinch-Bullfinch, Linnet-Bullfinch, and Greenfinch-Bullfinch.

The Linnet-Bullfinch cross was by far the best representation of high-class standard merit, and I do not hesitate to say I have seen equal, but never a better specimen than Mr. Ward's Linnet-Bullfinch. I have seen much better hybrids of the Goldfinch-Bullfinch cross, and possess a stuffed specimen of the Greenfinch-Bullfinch cross, said to be, by some of the best hybrid men in the land, the largest and best finished specimen ever seen up to date.

The "A.O.V. hybrid, bred from two British birds," class, brought together a few capital Goldfinch-Greenfinch hybrids; two or three decent Linnet-Greenfinch hybrids, a very neat Siskin-Greenfinch, with a slight defect, at the Show, to its tail; and a hen Goldfinch-Linnet hybrid. Where were the crosses between Canary-Bullfinch, Redpoll-Bullfinch, Siskin-Bullfinch, Twite-Bullfinch, Goldfinch-Redpoll, Greenfinch-Redpoll, Twite-Greenfinch, Twite-Goldfinch, Twite-Siskin, Redpoll-Siskin, etc.? Stir up yourselves, you hybrid breeders, and go in for winning those Medals offered by our Club for the production of rare hybrids! With a well thought out amended classification I don't see why a large increase in entries should not obtain at future Palace Shows. I hope to see it in the near future. I should like to see the Medals of the N.B.B. & M.C. for competition there also. C. HOULTON.

THE AMERICAN CAT-BIRD.

This species (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*) is a near relation of the Mocking-bird. It is rather larger than a Blue Robin, of a dingy slate-colour all over, except the under tail-coverts which are rusty claret-colour. The sexes seem to be alike in plumage but the cock is easily distinguished by his song In spite of its very plain plumage it is rather an attractive bird in captivity, being tame, amusing, intelligent, a good songster, and easily catered for. In addition to the usual insectivorous mixture, it eats fruit eagerly, but does not greatly care for mealworms. It appears to be much like our English Blackcap in its diet, and is no doubt equally easy to keep in health and condition.

Until recently, this bird was very seldom imported, and I do not remember to have ever seen it at a Show. Within the last few months a good many have been advertised for sale—at low prices too.

There is another Cat-bird, which must not be confused with the above. This last is a bright-plumaged Bower-bird. HORATIO R. FILLMER.

FOREIGN BIRD QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MADAGASCAR LOVE-BIRDS.

Question.—I have an aviary about 5ft. high, 4ft. wide, and 2ft. deep, in which I keep the following: Two pairs of Budgerigars, just commencing to nest, one pair of Blue-winged Love-birds, and one pair of Zebra Finches. Shall I be safe in putting in a pair of Madagascar Love-birds which I have? I have heard that it is not safe to put them with other birds, as they are rather inclined to fight. Would they breed in the aviary along with the Budgerigars?

Can you give me a list of a few small foreign birds which would be easy to breed either in the above aviary or in a Canary breeding cage?

The room in which my aviary stands has been at a temperature of about 44° during the last fortnight. What temperature will the Zebra Finches require to breed in? They have been making nests for the last two months, but there are no eggs yet. K. H. A.

Answer: Your aviary is rather small for more than one breeding pair of birds. If those you have in it at present are getting on well together, I do not think that I should, if I were you, risk disturbing their harmony by introducing any more birds. Madagascar Love-birds are larger than Blue-wings, and less amiable than Budgerigars, and certainly have rather a bad reputation. I should not trust them with little birds like Zebra Finches, in such a small aviary.

Bengalese are the only birds which I should recommend you to breed in a Canary breeding-cage. In an aviary similar to yours it would be easy to breed, besides Zebra Finches and Budgerigars, Ribbon Finches, Parson Finches, White Java Sparrows, Saffron Finches, or Cockatiels. Zebra Finches will breed at almost any temperature, but there is a great risk of egg-binding if it is below 60°.

HAND-REARING BUDGERIGARS.

Question.—I wish to bring up one or two Budgerigars from the nest—at what age should I take them from the nest? K. H. A.

Answer: At the age of between three and four weeks.

THE ORTOLAN BUNTING.

Question.—Can you tell me the correct name of a bird sold to me as an "Auckland Nightingale." In plumage it resembles a Brown Linnet, but is slightly larger and has a yellow rim round the eye. So far it is a Nightingale without a song, though it is said to be a "splendid songster." A. M. W.

Answer: The bird is simply the common Ortolan Bunting—which is often sold under the absurdly inappropriate name of "Auckland Nightingale." It has a monotonous song, and could not be truthfully described as a "splendid" songster.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HYBRID MANNIKINS.

Sir,—I have had a brood of five young hybrids from a Bronze Mannikin and a fawn and white Bengalese—and the young are exactly like Nutmeg Finches or Spice Birds except that the ground colour at the sides is fawn colour, speckled with black. They are about the same size as Nutmeg Finches—a good deal larger than the parents. But my Bronze Mannikins are aviary-bred, and very small. Giulia Tommasi.

WEST AFRICAN BIRDS.

[The following is an extract from a letter not intended for publication—but it is so interesting that we cannot resist the temptation to give the readers of "Bird Notes" the benefit of it. We hope Dr. Hopkinson will forgive us.]

Quinella, Gambia,
Jan. 16th, 1902. W. Africa.

* * * * * * *

I am now about 70 miles up the river, and encamped about four miles from it, near a native town, and of course all the common finches here are our common West African cage-birds—Waxbills, Cordon Bleus, and Bronze Mannikins very common, and Fire Finches in the villages. The brilliant scarlet of the Fire Finch in freedom is remarkable, especially when compared with the dull colour we see in imported birds. The Cordons are, however, no brighter than some that I have seen in England.

I think I have seen some Dufresne's Waxbills, and a red-breasted Waxbill I do not know—but I hope to have some caught as soon as we get settled, and if I can get any rare birds I shall bring some home.

On the whole I think the bird-life is disappointing.

There are numbers of Doves and Pigeons (of use for the pot, luckily), and swarms of Rollers and Bee-eaters and other bright-coloured birds, but the seed-eaters, and those interesting as cage-birds, are in a great minority, and unless looked for would be easily missed. I hope I shall be able to send something on them for "Notes," later on.

I think that "Amazon's" suggestion of an Index of Bird Names is a very good one. I have been collecting such names for some time and have a long list at home—when I get back in the summer I must see if I can work it into any useful shape. E. HOPKINSON.

A CURE FOR FEATHER-EATING.

SIR,—May I suggest a simple cure for parrots that pull off their feathers? I have found it useful in many cases. It is simply to damp the bird's feathers slightly and then powder them thickly with maize flour. If the affection comes from irritation of the skin, the maize flour soothes it; and if the bird pulls off his feathers or nibbles them from want of something to do, he gets plenty of occupation in freeing his feathers from the flour—at any rate it does no harm. I have also heard that olive oil is useful, but have not tried it myself.

GIULIA TOMMASI.

FOOD FOR NIGHTINGALES.

SIR,—Nightingales in this country (Italy) are fed with dried silkworms pounded into a sort of flour. This is mixed with maize flour and a little fresh chicory chopped up finely. A house-fly dipped in olive oil given occasionally helps to keep them in good health, as well as a spider or other insect.

The dry silkworms are used as food for all insectivorous birds here—for Robins a little grated cheese is added. GIULIA TOMMASI.

NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD AND MULE CLUB.

The sixth Annual General Meeting was held at the Crystal Palace, 1st February, 1902.

Present Messrs. J. P. Ball, D. Bentley, C. Boerma, F. Carl, F. F. S. Chatterton, C. Cooper, W. H. Cooper, T. Dewhurst, J. Frostick, J. F. Hills, W. Laskey, C. T. Maxwell, G. Morgan, W. Osbaldeston, A. Plumbridge, W. T. Plumbridge, J. Pollard, C. Prior, S. A. Sandy, S. Townsend, W. H. Vale, A. Wellings, G. Weston, Jno. Williams, the Hon. Sec., and others.

Mr. Pollard having been elected Chairman, the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were read and confirmed. The Hon. Sec. read the annual report and balance sheet, and expressed his pleasure in being able to show a balance of £1 17s. 6d. on the right side for the first time since the institution of the Club.

Mr. Bentley expressed his appreciation of the work of the Committee, coupling the names of the Hon. Sec. and Hon. Treasurer. The Hon. Sec. duly acknowledged the compliment. The Chairman referred generally to the condition of the Club, and thought that the work was being carried on to the satisfaction of the members. Mr. Frostick also congratulated the members upon the state of the Club's balance. Personally, he did not wish to see a big reserve or balance, he taking it that all moneys should be spent for the general benefit of the members.

The balance sheet having been passed, a very important resolution by Mr. Frostick was put as follows: "That this Club amalgamate with the Foreign Bird Club for the purpose of publishing a joint monthly Magazine, and that the subscription to the Club be 5/- per annum to all members, the same to include the Magazine post free monthly, and all other benefits of the Club without further charge from March 1st, 1902.

Messrs. Wellings, Boerma, Dewhurst and others took part in the discussion on the proposition, many questions of detail being asked and duly answered by the Hon. Sec. Mr. Wellings thought that the higher fee to country members might cause some resignations, but the general opinion was that members would appreciate the fact that they were getting such value for their money as was not given by any other Society or Club in Great Britain, and could not grudge the small increase in subscription. The proposition was seconded by Mr. Boerma and carried *nem. con.*

The result of the voting for the Committee and Judges was next communicated as follows:—

LONDON COMMITTEE.

	Votes.		Votes.
Mr. Boerma	50	Mr. Fulljames	40
,, Morgan	50	,, Tolhurst	39
,, W. H. Cooper	49	,, Laskey	28
,, J. Frostick	49	,, Jones	27
,, W. A. Lott	49	,, Rettich	13
,, Sandy	48	,, Pretty	5
,, Dewhurst	47	,, Tait	5
,, C. Cooper	43	,, Emms	4

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE.

	Votes.		Votes.
Mr. Dewar	31	Mr. Swaysland	16
,, Browning	22	,, Turnber	12
,, Lowne	10	,, J. Williams	9

BRITISH BIRD JUDGES.	Votes.	HYBRID JUDGES.	Votes.
Mr. J. Frostick	39	Mr. W. H. Vale	49
,, J. F. Hills	39	,, J. F. Dewar	37
,, S. Cook	37	,, C. Houlton	36
,, C. Houlton	34	,, J. Williams	35
,, W. H. Vale	25	,, W. Swaysland	23
,, W. Swaysland	13	,, D. Bell	16

The Hon. Sec. announced that he had deposited the voting papers in the hands of the Hon. Solicitor, and the elections gave general satisfaction to the meeting.

Mr. Adams proposed "That the N.B.B. and M.C. withhold its support from exhibitions, the promoters of which appoint the same judge year after year." Various views were expressed upon the resolution, and the general impression seemed to be that some variation and changes would be for the general benefit, but it was felt that the Club was not in a position to dictate to Show Committees, as they paid the Judges, and not we. The proposition was ultimately lost.

Many members being obliged to leave, the meeting was adjourned until 6th February at Headquarters, and the proceedings terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman.

The adjourned Annual General Meeting was held at the Napier, 25, High Holborn. Present, Messrs. Boerma, C. Cooper, Frostick, Maxwell, Morgan, A. Plumbridge, J. Pollard, Robson, Sandy, Tolhurst, Turnber, and the Hon. Sec.

The votes for the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year were taken by ballot, the result being that Mr. Robson was elected Chairman, and Mr. Pollard Vice-Chairman. The result was greeted with cheers and approval. Mr. Robson, in an appropriate speech, said that he highly appreciated the honour conferred upon him, and he would seriously endeavour to uphold the honour and integrity of the Club to the best of his ability. He thought that any little differences that might arise from time to time might be overcome by the pursuance of a solid, upright, and straightforward policy. Mr. Pollard also acknowledged his election, and generally agreed with the Chairman's remarks.

The election of Hon. Sec. was next proceeded with. The retiring Hon. Sec., having been asked to continue in the office, expressed his regret that the membership of the Club had decreased so much during the past twelve months, and thought that perhaps a new Hon. Sec. might be an advantage to the Club. The suggestion thus offered was at once rejected, and the Hon. Sec. was unanimously re-elected.

Mr. Maxwell, in accepting re-election as Hon. Treasurer, said that the Club had gone through a very trying year, but he thought they had no reason to be dissatisfied, and hoped that its present position would be maintained.

The Hon. Sec. suggested one or two minor alterations in the rules, but withdrew his proposals after a short discussion.

A long letter from Mr. Ball, proposing sundry alterations, was read, but it was thought inadvisable to interfere with the present rules.

The Hon. Sec. having mentioned that the new Magazine would considerably add to the duties of his office, a suggestion was made that an Assistant Hon. Sec. be appointed, and Mr. Frostick proposed Mr. Plumbridge for the position. This was seconded by Mr. Sandy and carried. Mr. Plumbridge, in accepting office, expressed his pleasure in doing anything to help forward the work of the Hon. Sec.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Club :—

	Proposed by	*Seconded by*
Mr. Arthur Gough	Mr. Wellings.	Hon. Sec.
,, W. P. Williams	Mr. Massey	,, ,,
,, W. H. Harris	,, ,,	,, ,,
,, W. N. Midgley	Mr. Frostick	,, ,,
,, H. J. Chick	,, Judd	,, ,,
,, C. Locke	,, Sandy	,, ,,
,, Galloway	Hon. Sec.	Mr. Vale
,, G. Galt	Mr. J. Williams	,, Maxwell

A vote of thanks to the Scrutineers and Auditors closed the Annual General Meeting.

Committee Meeting, held at Headquarters, 25, High Holborn, 6th March, 1902. Present—Mr. Pollard (in the chair), Messrs. Boerma, C. Cooper, Dewhurst, Emms, Frostick, Jones, Maxwell, A. Plumbridge, Sandy, Vale, and the Hon. Secretary.

Minutes of previous meeting having been read and confirmed, letters were read from Messrs. Robson, Perkins, Crozier, J. P. Ball (2), Ramsden, Houlton, Tyson, Fairey, Allen, and Boaler.

Mr. Houlton's letter called the Committee's attention to the disqualification of Mr. Browning's mule at the Crystal Palace. It was decided that as the matter had been dealt with by the L. & P. O. S., which Society had exonerated Mr. Browning, the incident was finished. Mr. Ramsden's letter conveyed his resignation, which, he wrote, was because of "the treatment I have received from one or two of your officials." The following resolution was proposed and carried unanimously—"That, as nothing official has been passed by the N. B. B. & M. C. to annoy Mr. Ramsden, the Committee would like Mr. Ramsden to reconsider his decission and give them particulars of his complaint."

An application from the Hull Cage Bird Society for patronage and support was allowed to stand over pending details of classification.

Mr. Frostick rose at 9 o'clock to deliver his lecture. The paper proved highly interesting and instructive, and as Mr. Frostick has kindly presented the lecture to the Club for publication in the Magazine, all the members of the Club will have the benefit of the same.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer at the conclusion, and Messrs. Boerma, Pollard, Jones, Dewhurst, Cooper and Sandy took part in the discussion which followed, during which Mr. Frostick handed round his model Nightingale cage and bird trap for inspection. Mr. Frostick, in replying to the vote of thanks, declared that he should always endeavour to help on the work of the Club by any means in his power, and he expressed his pleasure at the remarks which had been passed and the allusions to his work on behalf of the Club. A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed an interesting and instructive evening.

NOTES.

Mr. Vale has kindly consented to give a paper upon Hybrids next month.

The next birds to receive attention, in respect of having standards drawn up, will be the Linnet and the Siskin.

After the business of the Committee Meeting Mr. Boerma announced his intention of offering a gold medal to the member introducing most new members during 1902-3. The medal is a handsome one, and will doubtless be appreciated by the winner. It is now in the hands of our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Maxwell.

W. A. LOTT, *Hon. Sec.*,
NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD & MULE CLUB,
103, Cheapside, London, E.C.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

With this issue of "Bird Notes" each member of the F. B. C. will find a post-card addressed to me. May I ask, as a special favour, that every member will *at once* sign this and post it to me? I have to issue the voting papers by the 1st of April, so that I want to know the names of the candidates forthwith.

It is desirable that the list of candidates should be as large as possible—I hope, therefore, that the great majority of the members will express their willingness to stand for election. The purpose of asking members whether they are willing to stand is simply to eliminate the names of those who would refuse to accept office if elected.

I am quite willing to act as Secretary for another year, if the members do me the honour of re-electing me. But I think it would be better if some one else were Treasurer. Any members who stand for the Treasurership will, therefore, be doing good service to the Club.

Our new year begins on the 1st of May, but all new members proposed for election after the issue of this number of "Bird Notes" will be considered to date their membership from the commencement of the new year, and will not be liable for *this* year's subscription. I trust a good many new members will be proposed in the April "Bird Notes," so that their names may be published in the list of members to be issued in May. We want more members badly. Will every one make a special effort to get some?

HORATIO R. FILLMER,
Hon. Sec. FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
52, Ship Street, Brighton.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

The Hon. FREDERICK WALLOP, 46, South Street, Park Lane, W.

Mr. TALBOT H. BOND, Aylsham, Norfolk.

Mr. FRANK HOWE, 35, Cambridge Street, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire.

NEW MEMBER PROPOSED.

Mr. ERNEST VALENTINE, 7, Highfield, Workington.
Proposed by Mr. FROSTICK.

MEDALS WON DURING SHOW SEASON 1901-2.

Crystal Palace, November, 1901.

Silver. Mr. L. W. HAWKINS for Rufous-tailed Grassfinches.

Bronze. Mr. H. R. FILLMER for Reddish Finch.

Royal Aquarium, November, 1901.

Silver. Mr. J. A. SWAN for White-capped Tanager.

Bronze.	Mr. L. W. HAWKINS for Golden-shouldered Parrakeet.
	Sheffield, November, 1901.
Bronze.	Miss R. ALDERSON for Shamah.
	Crystal Palace, Jan. & Feb., 1902.
Silver.	Mr. H. B. SMITH for Red and Blue Macaw.
Bronze.	Mr. H. K. PICARD for Superb Tanager.
	Dublin, March, 1902.
Bronze.	Mr. E. RAMSEY PHILLIPS for Green-billed Toucan.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—You were informed in the February issue of "Foreign Bird Notes" of the association of your Club with the N. B. B. & M. C. in regard to the publication of a joint Magazine. As Hon. Secretary of the N. B. B. & M. C. I have to apologize for our first contributions to the Magazine being of a nature which will not be of much interest to foreign bird keepers. A considerable amount of matter, interesting to all bird lovers, is on hand and promised, and I trust that the whole Magazine will in the future be interesting to members of both Clubs.

Articles will be published from time to time in connection with the keeping of British birds in captivity, and an instalment of the first of these, by our well known fellow member, Mr. Frostick, appears in this issue.

W. A. LOTT, *Hon. Sec.*, N. B. B. & M. C.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB MARKET.

The charge for advertisements is one penny for each bird named. Advertisements must be concisely worded, and clearly written on a separate sheet of paper, with the name and address of advertiser at the foot. The fee must in all cases be prepaid in stamps. The Hon. Sec. is authorised to decline Advertisements which he considers undesirable. Advertisements for the APRIL issue must reach the Hon. Sec. not later than 15th APRIL.

Acclimatized birds, mostly from cold aviary—Pairs: Adult Cockatiels, 12/6; adult Budgerigars, 8/-; Dominican Cardinals, 20/-; grand Rufous-tail Grassfinches, 40/-; Long-tail Grass, 20/-; Pagoda Starlings, 10/-; Java Doves, 5/-; Shâmas, 60/-; Green Malabar Bulbuls, 60/-; fine Rose Cockatoos, 25/-: Black-head Conures, 20/-; grand Aracari Toucans, £5; Zosterops, 20/-; Blue Robins, 20/-. Cocks: Scarlet, Superb, Blue and Black Tanagers, 20/- each; Malabar Green Bulbul, 30/-; Shâma, 30/-; Black Yellow-shouldered Troupial, rare, 30/-: Hangnest, 30/-; fine Pagoda Starling, 5/-; Oryx Bishop, 10/-; Indian Bunting, 7/6; Corilla Cockatoo, tame, walks about, fond of children, 30/-; Double-front Amazon, 35/-; Blue-front Amazon, talks, 35/-; Javan Parrakeet, fine, 12/6; Blue Mountain Lory, 15/-; Green-bill Toucan, £5. Hens: Shâma, 30/-; Blue-Black Tanager, 20/-; Superb Tanager, 25/-. British Chough, 60/-; Jay, 25/-; Yellowhammer, 20/-; Bramblefinch, 20/-; Thrush, 30/-; Blackbird, 30/-; Blackcap, 15/-, all winners; Chaffinch, 10/-; Twite, 7/6; Starling, 5/-; Shore Lark and handsome show-cage, 10/-; moulted Sparrow, 2/6; large waggon aviary-cage, mouse-proof, ¼ straight mesh, on joiner made table on turned legs, all well dovetailed together, on castors, 40/, cost, £5.
W. OSBALDESTON, 2, St. John Street, Preston.

4 hen Zebra Finches, bred in outdoor aviary, 10/6.
Mrs. DUTTON, Bank Cottage, Walton, Stone, Staffs.

Reducing aviary stock of small foreign finches.
M. S. LATTEY, Hollydene, Allensbank Road, Cardiff.

Cocks, all acclimatized—Red-vented Bulbuls, 7/6; Red-faced Bulbuls, 10/6; Pekin Nightingales, 6/6; Parson Finches, 6/6. TALBOT H. BOND, Aylsham.

"MEATING OFF" AND FEEDING SOFT-BILLS.

By John Frostick.

(Continued from page 97.)

GENTLES—which are the larva of either the meat-fly (*Musca vomitoria*) commonly known as the "blue-bottle" or the housefly (*M. domestica*)—after they have been well scoured in dry earth, are not any more repulsive to the most refined than mealworms are. Although I do not think they approach the latter from a dietetic standard, still they are very useful in helping to "meat off" fresh caught birds, are relished at all times, cost nothing but the trouble of getting them, and can be had at a time when most required and mealworms not to be obtained; therefore I consider them an adjunct to the bird room larder not to be lightly passed over.

I understand that in the large towns of India, such as Calcutta, insectivorous birds are chief favourites, and are fed for the most part on the flour of gram, a kind of pulse, made up into a paste with ghee (clarified butter), and supplemented largely with maggots and grasshoppers. Mr. C. Harrison, a gentleman who lived many years in India, and from whom I bought Dyal Birds and Shâmas, told me that there are quite a number of men who make a living by breeding gentles or maggots, collecting grasshoppers, and making the food as above, which they call "sattoo," and for an exceedingly small sum will call at the houses of their customers daily and leave a sufficient quantity for the day's use. Such an arrangement is no doubt very economical, but would scarcely be practicable in any country but India, where for a few pence a day the coolies can exist in comfort. It is highly interesting to know that the feeding of insectivorous birds is understood, and that their requirements in captivity are so intelligently catered for, by the natives of our vast Indian Empire, and that gentles form a daily portion of the food for such delightful birds as Bulbuls, Shâmas, Dyals, Robins, etc., and this is sufficient answer to those who consider "that although gentles might do for dealers, *they* would only use mealworms,"—for such was the scathing reply I received from a gentleman, whom I once went to hear lecturing on soft-bills, when I quietly pointed out to him that he had made no mention of these useful insects in his otherwise interesting paper.

THE COCKROACH (*Blatta orientalis*), commonly but erroneously called the "blackbeetle," and also houseflies, are easy to procure by the aid of the excellent traps sold by every ironmonger—one is called the Demon beetle trap and the other the Balloon fly trap. They are both ingenious inventions, the latter exceptionally so. The insects when caught may be given to the birds alive or dead, the best way to kill them being by boiling steam. These little tit-bits are much appreciated by the birds, and during your country walks it will be as well to give an eye to such trifles as caterpillars (all but the hairy kinds), moths, butterflies, spiders, etc. Should you have a hot-house the green fly that infests various plants will be thankfully received by many of the smaller birds. The evident joy with which they will watch your approach with these delicacies will well repay you for the trouble of getting them.

YOLK OF EGGS, as sold in a preserved form, is an excellent article of diet and used with much success by many fanciers in place of fresh eggs, over which it has one great advantage, that is does not turn sour in hot weather. Mr. A. F. Wiener, writing in the "Avicultural Magazine" for February, 1901, says:—"I believe I am the innocent inventor of this preserved egg-food. It happened as follows: When the brilliant coal-tar aniline dyes were brought out they were very costly, and chiefly used for printing delicate flower designs on muslins, destined to become ladies' summer frocks. To thicken and fix these colours, egg albumen was used, as being the most suitable gum and not affecting the most delicate tints. The white of eggs, when boiled, becomes a very fine soluble gum, which is pure albumen. A friend of mine bought annually millions of eggs in Hungary, to make albumen from the white, but did not know what to do with the yolk of the eggs. He offered it by the hundred weight and ton to pastry cooks and to leather dressers: he tried to salt it, and he tried to invent candied yolk of eggs; but nobody would have it. I suggested to him to preserve the yolks by simply evaporating the moisture in it at a low heat and in a chamber from which the air was exhausted, whereby very rapid evaporation at a low heat, without the alteration of chemical combination of substances, resulting from cooking, becomes possible. My friend acted on the suggestion, and the product entirely answered my expectation of proving a very useful food for rearing Pheasants, bringing up chickens, and as a food for cage birds." When fresh eggs are used they should be as newly laid as possible, boiled gently until quite hard, and then granulated by pressing through a fine sieve.

OX HEART boiled, and then dried in the oven to extract the moisture, may then be grated, and will keep fresh some considerable time if kept in air-tight tin canisters in a cool dry place.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES, such as pears, apples, elder, privet, ivy, service, and blackberries, red and white currants, bananas, etc., all of which must be ripe, should form the chief portion of the Blackcap's food, and will be partaken of by many other species to their benefit. Carrots, which if kept buried in sand will keep fresh throughout the year, act as a valuable corrective to the heating foods mentioned above, keep the blood cool, and the bowels in a healthy state; a little finely grated ought to form part of the daily food mixture. Watercress, dandelion leaves, or lettuce, finely chopped, may be used in summer instead; they will form a variety, and the effect will be much the same.

BREAD that has been allowed to become stale, and is then dried in a cool oven for some hours, so that it may be ground into a fine powder, is a useful addition to the food list, as it keeps the mixture of ants' eggs, dried flies, egg and carrot (which may be looked upon as a staple diet) fresh and free from a sloppy condition; besides which, when eaten in moderation, it keeps a bird from getting too fat, which is a real danger to many birds kept in small cages—and can we wonder at it when we consider the changed condition of things? In a state of freedom they have to work hard for every morsel they eat, while in a cage they have nothing to do but sit on a perch all day and gorge to repletion. Singular to relate, it is the smaller species which are the most liable to an unhealthy state of fatness, and for this reason I always give them the largest cages I have got, that by the greater space wherein to exercise their wings, with plenty of clean water to bathe in, their thoughts may be diverted from everlastingly sitting on the food pot. Even then one must keep a sharp look out, and immediately we notice one sitting all in a lump, out he must come, and the cause will generally be found to have been a case of eating not wisely but too well. The remedy is simple, place him on more frugal diet and doctor his water with Epsom salts in the proportion of one half-teaspoonful dissolved in a wineglassful of hot water, letting it cool before giving it to the bird to drink. This will generally bring relief, and is a simple and useful medicine at all times.

When I began to write this article I did not intend to touch on that pernicious compound known as GERMAN PASTE, but seeing it is such an ancient institution some reference to it may be expected in an article of this description, and if I am able to put a stop to its use I shall have done some good in mentioning it. There are a variety of recipes for making German Paste, but the one chiefly used for the article sold in shops consists of coarsely ground pea meal mixed with treacle and baked to a nice golden colour; when cool, crushed hemp and maw seeds are added. Other recipes which I have seen have had whisked eggs, olive oil, and honey included, but needless to say they form no part of the article of commerce, seeing that the wholesale price is only 3d. per lb. When put into tin canisters with a fancy label on, and the addition of a sprinkling of ants' eggs and yolk of egg, it has a large sale as "Insectivorous Food," but, whatever the formula, I have no hesitation in condemning the mixture as totally unsuited for any kind of cage bird. It is unnatural, and impossible to be digested by any animal smaller than a pig, how much less so by the delicate stomach of an insectivorous bird I will leave to your imagination, and although the larger birds will exist on it for a time, they never really thrive, and if given to such birds as Nightingales they would quickly make up their minds that life under such conditions was not worth living. Therefore I hope that all you who now know better will have more consideration for your birds welfare and happiness than ever to be guilty of using German Paste in any shape or form.

KINGFISHERS having been mentioned in the fore part of this article it may be as well to say how they may be fed and kept in confinement. Having read a most interesting account by Mr. Chas. L. Rothera, of Nottingham, of his successful management of these beautiful birds in captivity, I thirsted for more knowledge on the subject, and in reply to my query he very kindly wrote me the following instructive letter, which I think I cannot do better than quote *in extenso* :—

> "In reply to your enquiry about Kingfishers, the only practical difficulty in the way of keeping them is to ensure a certain constant supply of fresh live fish. The man who kept my stock supplied ultimately got into gaol for poaching, and before I could make other arrangements my bird died for want of food. I now have a man ready at short notice to bring fish, but I cannot get a bird. No doubt I shall be able to do so when close time is over. I find it a great advantage to have birds brought in as quickly as possible after capture, while they are still strong and vigorous. Then, if the floating fish bowl is well supplied, there is little trouble in getting the birds to settle down to feed. For a new bird I always put a shallow pie dish in a back corner or shelf of the aviary away from the

public, with a few fish in, and the bird can fetch one without coming near the front. Only once have I been able to keep two together for any length of time, and these two good friends were taken by rats one after the other. Ever since, one bird, when established, has refused to allow the admission of a companion, but has always persecuted it to death. A Kingfisher will eat a score or five and twenty minnows per day and can swallow a fish as big as your little finger at a gulp."

"I am, etc.,

"CHAS. L. ROTHERA."

(*To be Continued*).

PARROTS AND PARRAKEETS.

By Dr. C. S. SIMPSON.

I propose to attempt, with, I fear, but partial success, the somewhat difficult task of condensing into a very limited space an account of the numerous species of the family *Psittaci*, which are commonly or occasionally kept as cage birds in this country. The number of species of Parrots known to us at the present time is 496, and of these rather more than 100 are more or less frequently kept in captivity.

Parrots have been kept in confinement as pets from a very ancient period of time: indeed it is believed by some commentators that the "Peacocks" which were brought to King Solomon from Ophir were really Parrots, and if that be so it is the earliest record we have of Parrots in captivity. Onesicrites, admiral of the fleet of Alexander the Great, brought from Ceylon a green Parrot, with a red neck, which is generally supposed to have been the Alexandrine Parrakeet, but may as probably have been the Lesser Ring-necked. Parrots were brought to Rome from Africa in the time of Nero, and these are supposed to have been the African variety of the Ring-necked. The Senegal Parrot and other West African species were known in Europe as far back as the fifteenth century. American species were imported by

Columbus in 1493, and after the circumnavigation of Africa at the beginning of the sixteenth century, Indian species were introduced.

Grey Parrots were imported into Europe in the middle ages, but as far as I am aware there is no record of their being kept in England before the year 1600. Catherine of Braganza, the Queen of Charles II., had a collection of Parrots, and paid the Parrot-keeper the very high salary in those days of £36 a year; and the Duchess of Richmond and Gordon, who was a celebrated beauty at the Court of Charles II., had a Grey Parrot for forty years, which is said to be preserved in Westminster Abbey, with the effigy of its mistress.

The custom of keeping Parrots as pets is by no means confined to civilised nations. When the discoverers of America landed in that country, it is said that they were met by natives carrying tame Macaws, and in all parts of the world where Parrots are found they have been kept in a state of confinement or semi-confinement by the natives from remote periods of time. In Africa the negroes are in the habit of rearing Grey Parrots from the nest and keeping them about their huts with clipped wings. And in South America the tall trees in which the Macaws breed are regarded as family possessions, and it is said that though the young are regularly taken and reared by hand, yet the old birds return year after year to the same trees, which thus become a regular source of income to the owners.

The Parrots form a well-defined Family of the Sub-order *Zygodactylæ*, or climbing birds, a group which also includes the Cuckoos and the Woodpeckers.

Without going too much into anatomical details, I may point out one or two characters which are interesting in relation to their habits. They are "yoke-footed" birds, having the toes arranged in pairs, two in front and two behind. The maxilla or upper mandible of the beak is in the Parrots exceptionally moveable, owing to the fact that there is a joint between it and the frontal bones of the skull which is wanting in other birds. The vomer or ploughshare bone of the skull is absent. The tongue is thick and fleshy, and is in the Lories and Lorikeets furnished with numerous moveable papillæ.

The classification of the Parrots presents less difficulty than that of some other families of birds. For our present purpose they may be roughly divided into four principal groups or sub-families, bearing in mind, however, that this is not a strictly scientific classification. *First*, the true or Short-tailed Parrots, of which the Grey Parrot is the most familiar example, and which also includes the Lovebirds and other small Parrots; *secondly*, the Parrakeets or Long-tailed Parrots with which we may take the Macaws; *thirdly*, the Cockatoos or Crested Parrots with which we may take the Cockatiel; and *fourthly*, the Lories or Brush-tongued Parrots, which latter may be sub-divided into the true or Short-tailed Lories and the Long-tailed Lories or Lorikeets.

The Parrots are essentially tropical birds, but are also found in the temperate parts of Australia and New Zealand. No species exists at present in Europe, though fossil remains shew that this was not always the case.

The larger species of Parrots are, in confinement, kept as a rule separately in cages or chained to stands, as it is generally found impracticable, owing to their destructive habits, to allow them a greater degree of liberty, and it must be admitted that, under these circumstances, their intelligence, affection for their owner, and talking powers become developed to a far greater degree than when in a state of comparative freedom. The square metal cages which are commonly sold are suitable enough if sufficiently roomy ones be selected—those with china vessels for food and water are best, and wooden perches must always be used. A Parrot on a stand is always a depressing object, as it can get but little exercise—a large cage is preferable.

The smaller and less destructive species are far more happy and far more interesting if kept in a large outdoor aviary, where, under favourable conditions, many will breed. All Parrots and Parrakeets require an occasional bath, and this may be easily given in the form of a shower from the garden watering pot once or twice a week. The birds invariably take the utmost delight in the proceeding, and it is highy advantageous to their health and the condition of their plumage.

The majority of Parrots live when wild on the seeds of various plants, nuts, and fruit, but the Lories, Lorikeets, and Hanging Parrots subsist almost entirely on soft fruits, the honey of flowers, and probably insects. These latter are therefore the most difficult to keep in confinement. The various foods required will be most coveniently described when treating of the different species. Need I say that all Parrots and Parrakeets require sharp grit to aid digestion, and *water.*

(*To be Continued*).

THE CHAFFINCH.

(*Fringilla cœlebs).*

It is my purpose in this little paper to enter into some details about our beautiful and popular pet the Chaffinch.

There is hardly a corner of the Kingdom, however barren, desolate, solitary, or remote, where you will not find our friend, as lively and as busy as the proverbial bee; scouring all the corners and crevices, looking for and devouring insects of all sorts and sizes, and taking an occasional "alterative" in the shape of some newly-ripened grain or seeds, of which there are, at different seasons, a large number to select from. You see him hopping along in a very sprightly and characteristic style, now and then with his head feathers erected like a crest, and always presenting a bold and jaunty appearance. He is fond of an occasional "dust up" in dry sand, in fine warm weather, and also frequently takes a bath. He is by no means a shy bird, but allows you to approach quite near to him, when he utters his sharp cry of "Pink," "Pink," and hops or flies a few yards away, until he feels quite secure from being captured by you. So much for the Chaffinch in a state of freedom.

After the severe weather of February last Chaffinches might be procured in almost unlimited numbers.

In choosing a bird, endeavour to obtain one answering as nearly as possible to the following description, viz. : A good big broad head, well set on a somewhat prominent neck ; beak horizontal ; body thick through chest and round girth at point of shoulder ; body tapering cone-shaped to the tail ; both under and upper tail coverts well grown ; plumage well filled in all round ; tail and wing flights well wrapped up and carried neatly ; colours of head and body clear and distinct ; plenty of sheen and lustre in the metallic shades (so beautiful in a well-developed bird) ; white wing bars and other white parts pure and distinct (which add greatly to the beauty of an ideal Show specimen) ; sound in legs and perfect in feet and toes ; active, but not wildly dashing at the wires ; sound in health, and at least in fairly good condition when you secure him. Such a bird will take some beating if moulted well, and you desire to exhibit.

A cage the size of a single canary breeding cage will do for moulting an exhibition Chaffinch—the perches should be the same distance apart as those you fix in your Show cages. The Show cage will do well if about 12 or 13 inches in height, the same in length, and 5 to 5½ inches deep. The wires should be five-eighths or three-quarters of an inch apart, whichever you prefer. There should be two perches, equi-distant from each end and from each other—so as to give the bird free action without damaging his tail or wing feathers. The inside of the cage should be enamelled a deep green, and the outside black.

When caged, you should feed your Chaffinch in the following manner : As a staple seed diet use Finch and Linnet mixture in combination, and in addition give a quantity of groats and sunflower in separate pans or boxes. For an occasional change in diet you may give any kind of insects—such as flies, spiders, moths, moth-worms, smooth caterpillars (not the hairy ones), wasps, wasp grubs, gentles (or maggots of the fly), mealworms, etc., or a few ants' eggs. Some green-food should be supplied in spring and summer, of the various kinds lately so much written about by me and others, with blight on when you can get it—for the blight insect is quite a natural food for this semi-insectivorous bird.

Your Chaffinch must have fresh water every day. Give him a cold bath as often as he cares to take it, but remove the bath-tin the moment he has bathed. Strew plenty of sand on the bottom of his cage, and give him a little coarse grit to peck at. Accustom him to running backwards and forwards from the "keeping" cage to the Show cage, particularly during the Show-season—and then, when he has moulted he will have learned all that is required of him as a Show bird. If you keep the cage covered with fine muslin, or a piece of old lace curtain, you will save much trouble in washing your bird, and he will be in better form for the Show bench all the season.

Those of you who feel disposed to use artificial colour-food when moulting the Chaffinch, may use the following mixture:—Hard-boiled eggs, sweet tea biscuits, a little raw sugar, tasteless pepper in the proportion of one-third or one-half of the whole. All the ingredients must be thoroughly mixed before use. Another colour-food mixture is as follows:—A quantity of chicken meal, some ants' eggs, dried currants, a small proportion of Indian meal, a little raw sugar, a little of "Brand's meat meal," tasteless pepper in the proportion of one quarter of the whole bulk. Of the last-mentioned food enough may be mixed at a time to last your bird right through the moult. Give at a time only enough to last for the day—it should be moistened with boiling water to a crumbly consistency. Keep the mixture in a cool dry place, ready for use.

Anti-colour-food enthusiasts will, I dare say, not thank me for the foregoing recipes, but if used as directed, and the birds are regularly fed, I am certain that no harm will be done to the birds. Feeding as I here recommend is quite a different thing from feeding on hot cayenne pepper, and at the same time denying the birds all other food in order to make them eat it. I do not believe in starving any bird on to colour-food. On the contrary, I believe in giving him a supply of seed also—but I have found my birds often go for the colour-food in preference to the seed. Of course, if you can provide a sufficient supply of the various wild seeds in their ripe state, and moult your birds upon them, they will develop a wonderful brilliancy of plumage—but when these natural colour-foods fail, you are bound to substitute artificial ones, to gain the desired result.

CHARLES HOULTON.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BRITISH BIRDS AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

Mr. Laskey has taken strong objection to my criticism of Class 104 (Pied and Albino), he being the Judge of same. He takes exception particularly to my suggestion that the Pied Robin should have been awarded third prize instead of the Black Bullfinch. Mr. Laskey says that the Pied Robin was very wild during the judging, and that several of its flights were missing. I can only say that the bird was not wild when I was writing my report, and that the absence of the flights was not noticeable when the bird was at rest. It is by no means the first time that a bird has presented to the reporter a very different appearance from that which it had when before the judge. Further, a reporter has not the opportunity of a judge of handling an exhibit.

Mr. Laskey writes, "I do not care a rap for opinions expressed on my judgment, but as a member of the Committee of the N. B. B. & M. C. I must ask you for a public explanation," etc. Mr. Laskey has hereby the public explanation he asks for, and I would only say in conclusion, that if a report be not the expression of the reporter's honest opinion of the birds at the time he sees them, but should be, instead, simply an indorsement of the Judge's placing, there is no need of a reporter at all. W. A. LOTT.

A SALMON-CRESTED COCKATOO.

SIR,—My Salmon-crest is a great pet and a most intelligent bird. He does not sing as some parrots do, but he whistles any number of pretty tunes which he composes himself. He sits still with his beak half open and whistles by the hour—when he goes too high he stops, and begins again in a lower key. He will whistle at any time when I tell him to, and likes especially to perform before several people—then he will trill like a prima donna, shaking his head and erecting his crest, then, suddenly taking a bashful fit, he will hide his face on my shoulder.

He is fond of black coffee and will drink it out of a spoon, holding it himself without spilling it. I do anything I like with him—I wrapped him up in paper the other day and made a parcel of him, and he enjoyed the joke.

He distinguishes *coloured* pictures. If I shew him a chromo of a cat he pretends to be very much frightened, raises his crest, erects all his feathers, and hisses, but if I shew him a coloured plate of a Cockatoo he will kiss it. I have not known any other animal do this. If the pictures are black and white he does not recognise them. On the other hand, he is not taken in by a looking glass, and cares not at all for it.

I sometimes wonder whether he is a feathered cat, or a monkey in a cockatoo's plumes, for he is so lively, so comical, so mischievous, and withal so loving and sweet, that he is enough to occupy the attention of a household all day long. GIULIA TOMMASI.

FOOD FOR NIGHTINGALES.

SIR,—I was much interested in the Countess Tommasi Baldelli's account of the manner in which they feed Nightingales in Italy, and would like to say that I have myself used *live* silkworms for feeding soft-bills (and the birds ate them readily), but I made no mention of them in my article because I do not think that they are at all worth their cost (in England) from a food point of view.

Quite recently I had a long talk with Lord Wallscourt on the management of insectivorous birds, and his lordship shewed me a box full of dead silkworm chrysalides or pupæ, from which the silken cocoons had been removed, which I understood his lordship to say he had received from Paris—and he was in the habit of giving them, by way of a treat, to a pet Italian Rock Thrush (*Turdus saxatilis*).

I should like to ask the Countess Tommasi Baldelli if I am not right in supposing that what she terms "dried silkworms" are in the chrysalis stage, and not in the larval stage—as her letter would give one to suppose.

JOHN FROSTICK.

POINT PRIZES.

SIR,—On another page I have put forward the proposal that special prizes offered by the F. B. C. should in future be for most points.

My reason for proposing that the prizes be given for points is that the present method gives a lot of trouble all round, and is most unsatisfactory.

There is no such thing as "the best bird" in a show where there is more than one class. I contend that there is a best bird in *every* class, and to say that one bird is better than every other best bird is neither right nor fair.

Under the present requirements, F. B. C. specials have been, on several occasions, awarded to birds not eligible and, moreover, have been awarded after the Judges knew to whom the birds belonged, and on the second day of the show, which is not right nor proper.

If points were adopted these errors would not occur.

I know quite well that many small exhibitors object to point prizes, as they say it does not give them a chance to win; but under our rules this does not follow, because an exhibitor can only win once at one show, therefore the small man is sure to get his chance one day. Besides, it is not our duty to consider the individual but the many, and the large exhibitor is surely entitled to as much consideration as the small one. It is the large exhibitor who keeps the show going, and not the fancier with one single champion, who expects his 15/- prize-money and gold medal in return for his 1/6 entry fee; and there are many such, who only shew one bird because they will not chance their luck with another unless they are certain it can win. No, from my experience of exhibitors, the big man has my sympathy; he shews for the love of shewing, and if there are point prizes to win he sends birds he knows cannot be on the prize list but may receive a V. H. C. card and thus count, and in this way he helps the Show Committee to pay their prize-money. On the other hand, the profit your small man makes out of his single entry does not help Committees of Shows—and if there is any fault to be found, he is generally the one to find it.

I am firmly of opinion that giving prizes for points is the fairest way all round, especially with the restriction that only so many prizes be won in a season by any one exhibitor. JOHN FROSTICK.

NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD AND MULE CLUB.

Committee Meeting held at Headquarters, 25, High Holborn, 3rd April, 1902; Mr. Robson in the chair.

Present—Messrs. Sandy, Vale, Boerma, Laskey, Carl, Dewhurst, C. Cooper, Maxwell, A. Plumbridge, Frostick, Wells, W. H. Cooper, Thompson, King, and the Hon. Secretary.

Minutes of previous meeting having been read and confirmed, letters were read from Mr. Adams, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Wilson, Miss Craddock, Mr. Mays, Mr. Ball, and Mr. Frostick.

Miss Craddock's offer of a silver medal was accepted with thanks by the Committee, and it was agreed to adjudicate upon the essays and lectures published during the year, and to award the medal to the best sent in.

It was agreed unanimously that the Hon. Secretary should write a letter of sympathy to Mr. Houlton upon his serious illness, and wishing him a speedy recovery to health and strength.

The application of the Hull Show for four medals of the Club was again before the Committee. They submitted a splendid classification, but in view of other applications, and the awarding of some of the promised medals to those who have never won a medal, it was proposed by Mr. Dewhurst, and seconded by Mr. Sandy, that the application again stand over until next month. (Carried).

Mr. Frostick proposed the following resolution:

> "That the Club's support be withheld, and no medals or other special prizes be given for competition, at any Show unless all members are eligible to compete for same at such Shows." (Seconded by Mr. Sandy).

Mr. Frostick, in supporting his proposition, thought it was very unfair for any member or members to be debarred from showing at a Show where our medals were given. He himself was a member, and supporter of this Club to the best of his ability, and he thought he had a right to compete for his own Club's specials. Messrs. Sandy, Vale, Maxwell, and others, giving their views, the proposition was carried.

Mr. Webb was proposed by the Hon. Sec. as a new member. (Seconded by Mr. Maxwell).

This concluded the work of the Committee.

Mr. Robson called upon Mr. Vale to deliver his lecture upon "Hybrids, and Hybrid Breeding," which proved highly interesting and instructive, nearly all present taking part in the discussion. For nearly forty minutes Mr. Vale was called upon to furnish answers to a long series of questions which the subject naturally gave rise to, opening, as it did, a wide range of thought. A hearty vote of thanks was duly accorded to Mr. Vale, and acknowledged, and the lecture was placed in the hands of the Hon. Secretary for publication in the Magazine.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the meeting. W. A. LOTT, *Hon. Sec.*

STANDARDS.

SISKIN.

Steadiness	10
Size	20
Cap, clean cut, jet black, free from grizzle, and quality	20
All colours and markings to be well defined, not running into each other	20
Depth of colour, which should be of a deep yellow tinge (black parts excepted) throughout, and quality	20
Condition and staging	10
	100

GREENFINCH.

Steadiness	30
Size	20
All shades of colour to be clear and bright, the yellow especially so	20
Quality and condition	25
Staging	5
	100

HAWFINCH.

Steadiness	40
Size	10
All colours to be clean and well marked	20
Quality and condition	20
Staging	10
	100

LINNET.

Steadiness	25
Size	20
Position, the bird as erect as possible, and totally free from crouching	10
Colour and variegation of back, the darker the brown the better; all markings to be thoroughly defined and quality throughout ..	20
White pencillings of flights and tail as clear and distinct as possible	15
Condition aud staging	10
	100

BRAMBLE OR MOUNTAIN FINCH.

Steadiness	50
Size	10
Back markings, bright and distinct, and quality ..	10
Breast colour, deep and well defined, and quality..	10
Remaining colours bright, not running into each other, quality and condition	15
Staging	5
	100

CHAFFINCH.

Steadiness	50
Size	10
Evenness of colour on back, and quality	10
All other colours bright and well marked, and quality	15
Condition and staging	15
	100

The above standards are submitted to members for their views, suggestions, approval, or otherwise. Kindly send on your criticisms by next monthly meeting.

MEMBERS' NOTES.

All notes by the Hon. Secretary except where otherwise initialed.

Our esteemed Vice-President and Judge, Mr. Hills, completed his 25th year of judging at the Crystal Palace Show, and tells me his eyesight is as keen as ever. I am sure all our members join with me in congratulations to our old friend.

Many were the envious eyes cast at the winning Albino Thrush at the Crystal Palace Show, and the owner must have had a task in answering the many enquiries as to its disposal.

A two-year old hand-reared hen Bullfinch has taken to chattering and imitating bugle calls. (H. Robins).

I have to look ahead, and shall be crying out for more copy from our members, so please forward as soon as possible and oblige. Any little note will be acceptable.

Bird-catching in any form has been prohibited throughout the whole of the County of Bucks for this year.

I shall be pleased to receive any intimation from members of the Club who are desirous of giving gold, silver, or bronze medals for the producing and rearing of any stipulated cross or hybrid; also for the breeding of British birds in captivity.

The conditions will be as last year. I don't know if many members tried for the medals offered last year; if so, their experiments were not encouraging, and I wish them better luck in the forthcoming season.

I hope members will not forget the gold medal that will be given to the members introducing the most members during the year. I am most anxious to make up the membership to 200 strong, and I ask each one to do their best to send in a name by next meeting-night.

Subscriptions are now due, and Mr. Maxwell will be pleased to receive them as soon as possible, as we shall have very heavy expenses to face this year, and the early payment of subscriptions will save us much anxiety.

Mr. Lloyd-James has sighted a pair of Choughs in a certain part of Wales, which are likely to nest if left undisturbed.

Mr. Plumbridge discovered a Blackbirds' nest in his garden (Anerley) on the 19th March, with four eggs.

Mr. Mays writes, on the 29th March: "I saw the first Whinchat on the 6th March. Is not this unusually early?"

More encouragement for members: Miss Craddock has kindly offered a silver medal for the best essay during the year. The Committee will award the medal at the end of the year.

Mr. Vale also offers medals for breeding certain Hybrids, which please note in reading his lecture.

Do not forget that I am anxiously waiting for some wild bird notes.

Will members please note that letters on all matters connected with the Club are read by me as Hon. Sec. at the monthly Committee meetings, and I should be glad if matters intended to be private were sent separately. Latterly I have frequently had to read letters, parts of which were on business, and parts private.

SIR,—As one of the oldest members of the N. B. B. & M. C., I should like to hear the opinion of our members on the proposition of Messrs. Frostick and Sandy, which was adopted at the last meeting of the Committee. I doubt if the Committee have the power to add such a rule; anyhow, the fact remains, and until it is rescinded our members will be unable to compete for our medals at the Crystal Palace Shows.

Messrs. Frostick and Sandy consider (and rightly, too) that, having paid their subscriptions, they are entitled to compete at any Shows at which the Club medals are offered; but it does not follow that the other 140 members should be prevented from competing for their medals at two of the principal Shows of the season because two members choose to run amuck into the management of those Shows. Their quarrel or misunderstanding is of an entirely private nature, and should not on any consideration be allowed to affect the interests of the Club.

It certainly does not become the dignity of any body of right-minded men to allow such an important proposition to be rushed—I say rushed, as it was undoubtedly rushed—in the face of an important proposition of Mr. Boerma's.

Personally, I consider this nonsense has been carried too far for the welfare of the Club, its members, and objects. I will ask every member to give his or her opinion on this subject, through the columns of our little journal, so that the general feeling of the members may be obtained. W. LASKEY.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

SCRUTINEER'S REPORT.

THE COUNCIL.

		Votes.			*Votes.*
*	Fillmer, H. R.	41	6	Oakey, W.	26
1	Swaysland, W.	40	7	Hamlyn, J. D.	23
2	Frostick, J.	38	8	Townsend, S. M.	20
*	Osbaldeston, W.	35	9	Smith, H. B.	20
3	Camps, H. T. T.	32	10	Swan. J. A.	17
4	Quin, R.	31	11	Cushny, C.	15
5	Chamberlain, C.B. d'E.	30	12	Mumford, J. J.	12

13	Lattey, Miss M. S.	11	16	Burge, S.	6
14	Thorpe, F. C.	11	17	Bond, T. H.	6
15	Philip, A.	9	18	Acutt, J.	3

* Messrs. Fillmer and Osbaldeston being elected as Secretary and Treasurer respectively are not eligible for the Council—of which, however, they are *ex officio* members.

JUDGES.

1 Swaysland, W. .. 34 2 Frostick, J. .. 30

Camps, H. T. T. .. 21

SECRETARY.

Fillmer, H. R.	44	Osbaldeston, W.	3

TREASURER.

Osbaldeston, W.	12	Mumford, J. J.	4
Swan, J. A.	7	Thorpe, F. C.	1

Six disqualified (unsigned)

JAMES STOREY, *Scrutineer.*

NEW MEMBER ELECTED.

Mr. ERNEST VALENTINE, 7, Highfield. Workington.

NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED.

Mr. GEORGE BELL, Dernatowny, Drumkeerin, Co. Leitrim. *Proposed by* Mr. ANDREW PHILIP.

Mr. H. C. HASELTINE, 299, Westminster Road, Liverpool. *Proposed by the* HON. SEC.

The following persons, not having paid their subscriptions for the year ending 30th April, 1902, have ceased to be members of the Club :

Mr. W. E. STEVENS, Lowther Street, York.
Mr. F. G. Potter, Granby Street, Leicester.
Mr. E. GRIFFITHS, Brislington House, Bristol.
Mr. C. S. R. PERRING, 144a, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

To the Hon. Sec., F. B. C.

SIR,—I beg to propose the following new rules.

1st. That the support of the Club be withheld from, and no medals or special prizes be given at, any show unless every member of the Club be eligible to compete at such show.

2nd. That all medals or other special prizes to be won by *points* only (and not for the best bird, as at present). Points to count : C. 1 ; H.C. 2 ; and one point for each higher award. In case of a tie taking place the member taking most prize money to win. Rule I. (Medal Rules) to follow here.

3rd. That all members exhibiting at shows where the Club specials are given be asked to place the initials "F. B. C." after each entry in schedule, and request the Secretary to insert same in show catalogue.

4th. That a definite charge be made for each *word* in the "F. B. C. Market,"—say four words one penny.

5th. That with a view to increasing the membership, any member proposing—say six or more—new paying members, be given a years subscription to the Club free.

6th. That to stimulate latent talent and healthy competition some scheme be formulated for giving prizes for the best articles on foreign birds sent in, and for increasing the popularity of "Bird Notes" in other ways.

JOHN FROSTICK.

The above letter from Mr. Frostick raises several questions of considerable interest. The various points will be decided upon, in due course, by the Council, but it is thought better first to afford the members an opportunity of expressing their opinions.

If there are any members who wish to resign at the expiration of the current year of the Club, they are requested to communicate with me before the 1st of May—otherwise they will be liable for next year's subscription.

I feel that some explanation should be given of the fact that in the first number of "Bird Notes" the pagination commenced with "93." The reason is that only five numbers of "Foreign Bird Notes" had appeared—too few to form a volume by themselves—and it was thought better to page "Bird Notes" consecutively with them, so that all might be bound together. I trust that our friends of the N. B. B. & M. C. will accept this explanation, and pardon any inconvenience which may arise. The fact that our year begins in May and that of the N. B. B. & M. C. in March, causes a good deal of difficulty, and I think it would be a good plan if we were to alter our rules in this respect, so as to bring ourselves into line with the sister Club—which we must remember is an older and larger Society.

HORATIO R. FILLMER,
Hon. Sec. FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
52, Ship Street, Brighton.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB MARKET.

The charge for advertisements is one penny for each bird named. Advertisements must be concisely worded, and clearly written on a separate sheet of paper, with the name and address of advertiser at the foot. The fee must in all cases be prepaid in stamps. The Hon. Sec. is authorised to decline Advertisements which he considers undesirable. Advertisements for the next issue must reach the Hon. Sec. not later than 15th May.

"British Birds with their Nests and Eggs," by Dr. Butler and other authors, in 27 parts, unbound, unsoiled; also binding for Vol. I. Price 45/-, cost 56/-.

J. CRONKSHAW, Mansion House,
Plantation Street, Accrington.

Hen Crimsonwing Parrakeets, £1 each; hen Redrump Parrakeets, 12/- each. All bred in outdoor aviary.

Lady MORSHEAD, Forest Lodge, Binfield, Berks.

Pair Cirl Buntings, 5/-; cock Linnet, 2/-.

Miss M. S. LATTEY, Holydene, Cardiff.

Wanted—Acclimatized hens of Grey Singing-finch and Green Singing-finch; Good English hen Siskin, and cock Cinnamon-breasted Finch.

Miss HUSBAND, Clifton View, York.

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☞ *All communications for "Bird Notes," in reference to the British Bird and Hybrid department should be addressed to the Hon. Sec. of the National British Bird and Mule Club, and all communications in reference to Foreign Birds to the Hon. Sec. of the Foreign Bird Club.*

"MEATING OFF" AND FEEDING SOFT-BILLS.

By John Frostick.

(*Continued from page 126*).

CAGES are a very important item in the proper keeping of soft-bills. I have made a special study of both British and foreign makes, and, out of the many ideas suggested, have evolved one that I think comes to as near perfection as mortal man can devise.

For a bird the size of a Nightingale or smaller, I make a cage 19½in. long, 10in. wide, 15½in. high.; box shape and open only in front. The body of the cage is made from best yellow pine, painted inside with three coats of Aspinall's 'Pearl' Enamel. The outside is stained mahogany colour and varnished or French polished. On the inside of the roof there is a removable frame covered with stout linen, leaving a space between it and the wooden top of three-quarters of an inch: this is to prevent the bird from injuring its head by a sudden jump upwards during the restless period known as the migratory fever. The bottom has a movable tray of zinc, which is easier to keep thoroughly clean than wood, the droppings not being able to soak into the metal as they do into wood and thus cause an unhealthy smell. The front, which is also removable, is fitted with wooden bars instead of wire, against which the inmate is less likely to injure its feathers than if wire were used. At each end of the front bottom rail a little oblong door opens out, to which is fixed a round loop of wire, on the the inside, to hold a round flanged glass, the shape of a gentleman's tall hat; these glasses are for the food and water, and are about 2in. in diameter by 1½in. deep. A flap, 1in. deep, is hinged to the front of the bottom rail, which allows of the drawer being pulled out for cleaning, but prevents the possible escape of the bird during the process. A door at the front to hang the bath on, and another at the right hand end to run the bird out at, together with three perches, complete the cage. The perches should be made of soft wood: one in the centre resting on the middle bar, and one on each side close to the food and water glasses on the bottom rail. Some people cover their perches with chamois leather, others with cloth and India rubber tubing; but I don't think it necessary, if they are kept scrupulously clean. Sand is not a suitable dressing for the bottom of your soft-bill's cage, as, unlike seed-eaters, he requires little, if any, to help him to grind or digest his food, and the sharp particles of grit are liable to cut his delicate feet; therefore I advise the use of cocoa-nut fibre refuse, slightly damp. Some use sawdust and rice husks for the cage drawers, but it is not to be recommended, owing to the danger of its getting swallowed with the food, and fatal consequences following.

TRAPS AND TRAPPING. Of all birds perhaps none are easier to catch than the insectivorous kinds, and they readily fall victims to the tempting bait of a nice fat mealworm. During the hard frosts of winter many kinds can be obtained with such simple devices as the well known brick trap and garden sieve; in fact I have seen flocks of Skylarks and Redwings so thoroughly exhausted during severe weather, that I have been able to capture them by running them down and putting my cap over them. At such times I have seen hundreds of Larks, Bramblefinches, and Snowbuntings caught with twisted horsehair noozes, tied to a long string pegged to the ground at each end, with oats and chaff used as a bait.

To ensnare any one of the numerous summer migrants, that visit our shores about April and May, when food is to be had in plenty, is a rather more difficult task, but, strange as it may seem, it is very easy to secure quite as many as we require. Nightingales especially are most unwary, and will actually watch you set the trap, and take the bait immediately your back is turned. Such unwieldy apparatus as clap nets, used for the taking of wild birds wholesale, may well be left to the professional bird-catcher. For the amateur fond of sport, and with the desire to catch a few birds for his own special keeping, few pursuits are more fascinating than bird trapping. A small trap, "made in Germany," shaped like two elongated ᗡD s, made of strong wire and covered with fine netting, with a stout spring in the middle, is the handiest and best thing I know of. It is simply pinned to the ground with a couple of wire hooks at each end of the spring, which is the straight part of the D, one half bent right back and set with a mealworm for a bait (which should be the only thing left visible) the net, etc., being loosely covered with leaves or grass. This trap can, of course, be made any size, but the most suitable is about 14in. by 10in. Bird lime is easily obtained anywhere, and is the only means by which we can get some birds. A friend of mine told me he used to catch all his Golden-crested Wrens by its aid: liming the end of a long fishing rod, and following the birds around the trees until he had the opportunity of striking one and bringing it to the ground. For catching the various tits there is perhaps nothing better than the common double trap cage, using as a decoy a bird of the same species as we wish to capture. The great advantage we get in trapping our own birds, is that we are able to keep them from hungering from the time we take them until we cage them: for a bird that has been caught for several hours, and kept without food during that time, is too weak and depressed in spirit to be a suitable subject for meating off succesfully.

(To be Continued).

PARROTS AND PARRAKEETS.

By Dr. C. S. Simpson.

(Continued from page 129).

The Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) is of all foreign cage birds the best known and the most popular. It inhabits West and Central Africa, from Guinea, Senegambia, and the Congo region to the East of Lake Nyanza. Grey Parrots are especially numerous on Prince's Island, and here they live in flocks, breeding in the dense forests, utilising hollow trees for nesting purposes, and laying, it is said, five white eggs at a sitting. Their food consists of palm nuts, bananas, and other fruits, and they also do great damage to the fields of maize. The young birds, as soon as they are fledged, are caught by natives, brought down to the coast in wicker baskets, and sold to dealers, who ship them to England. It is well known that the unsanitary conditions under which these unfortunate birds travel, the overcrowding, improper feeding, want of cleanliness, and sudden changes of temperature, induce in an enormous proportion of cases that disease which has been named "ship-fever." Of this disease I will only say that it attacks, with very few exceptions, every bird which is imported under these conditions, and that it is absolutely incurable by any treatment at present known to us.

The Grey Parrot, however, when once acclimatised, is a perfectly hardy bird, and with the most ordinary care will live to a great age in confinement. It is by no means susceptible to cold, and requires but a simple diet. A mixture of maize, hemp, canary, sunflower-seed and oats, a few nuts and a biscuit occasionally, and a daily allowance of apple or other fruit will suffice to keep it in health. The same food is suitable for all the larger seed-eating Parrots, and most of them are very fond of fruit, especially apple or pear. Most Parrots are fond of having a piece of wood to bite up. Some, like my own Grey Parrot, reject such toys and prefer to gnaw their perch; if so, a hard one must be provided which will take some time to destroy, but on no account should a perch covered with metal be used. The practice of covering over at night is not necessary except in very cold weather, but servants must not be allowed to throw doors and windows open and place the bird in a draught in the early morning.

The Grey Parrot is, I believe, the most certain of talkers. Individuals of other species may be equally brilliant performers, but almost every Grey, if taken in hand when young, and if sufficient trouble be taken with it, will learn to talk more or less. As a rule, a Parrot must be carefully taught, if it is to be made a good talker, by repeating each sentence until it has learned it. A Grey Parrot I now have was taught for six months before he would say a word, but when he once began he soon learned a number of sentences. Grey Parrots are almost always shy talkers and will seldom perform before strangers.

THE AMAZON PARROTS (*Chrysotis*) are natives of Central and South America and the West Indies. Of this genus forty-two species are known, about twelve being imported as cage birds. With the single exception of Guilding's Amazon, which is orange brown, the prevailing colour of each species is green, the principal differences between the various species being in the markings about the forehead and cheeks. In size they vary from Guilding's Amazon, which measures 18ins. in length, to the White-browed, which is little over 10ins. and is the smallest species. The Amazons are decidedly hardy birds, and require the same treatment as the Grey Parrot. The best talkers and mimics are found, as a rule, among the Levaillant's or Double-fronted (*C. levaillanti*), the Blue-fronted (*C. æstiva*), and the Festive or Red-fronted (*C. festiva*). Many individuals of these species attain a very high degree of fluency, and are generally less averse than the Grey Parrot from displaying their attainments, but the proportion of complete failures is decidedly greater among the Amazons than among the Greys.

One of the rarest species imported is the Diademed Amazon (*C diademata*). It appears to be exceedingly uncommon even in Brazil, and its range is not exactly known. As in the other Amazons, the distinguishing features consist in markings about the head, the forehead being crimson, the crown lilac, the occiput greenish yellow, and the feathers of the hind-neck green edged with lilac. It is as large as the Blue-fronted Amazon. The Diademed is sometimes mistaken for the less rare Salvini's Amazon (*C. salvini*) but the latter can be readily distinguished by having the feathers of crown, occiput and hind-neck green with lilac edges, and by the absence of the yellow tint on the occiput

(*To be Continued*).

HYBRID BREEDING.

By W. H. VALE.

There are few subjects less understood by the ordinary reader of the fanciers' press (much less still by the general public) than the one before us. To the few, and they, I think, might almost be counted on the fingers of one hand, the subject has no difficulty, and to them the right road to success is so very straight that it is, we almost might say, difficult for them to go wrong, or to attempt the sometimes considered impossible, without their meeting with success. To those few I do not intend to say anything, except wish them still further success, and more fame for their successes yet to come.

To breed a clear mule, or any of the more rare and beautiful crosses, such as the Canary-Bullfinch, the Redpoll-Bullfinch, the Siskin-Bullfinch, or a very light hybrid from any finch, except the Goldfinch, is a thing for any fancier to be proud of. In some cases, no doubt, many years of patience and hard work have passed before such a result has been achieved; but on the other hand, I know a few who have, as it were, ascended the ladder of fame almost the first time they attempted the task, and produced quite a consternation among breeders of hybrids. Such successes are, no doubt, very surprising to the steady going breeder, who all his life has been trying for something rare, and yet perhaps after 20 or 30 years of trying may never have brought out anything better than a few dark (or possibly a few pied) mules of the Sparrow type, and not worth as many shillings as the lucky beginner's are worth pounds. Still, the successes of the few are a great help to the plodder, and inspire him with new hope and courage to try again.

To those of our members who are trying, or anticipate trying, I would say—have patience, keep a stout heart, never say die, use the very best birds you can procure, look well after their little wants, take the advice (from the experiences of others) so freely given through the press, and study nature as much as possible in trying for rare crosses.

The subject of hybrids, or, as they are more generally called, mules, is one of such magnitude, that to attempt to go fully into its intricacies would take much more space than I have at command.

I need hardly tell you that the ideal in hybrids is a clear yellow mule, though but a few can boast of ever producing one. As a rule, you find if you are fortunate enough to get a lightly marked or ticked bird, that it has a tendency to get lighter after each moult, and I may say that I do not know of a single instance of a clear mule which was so in its nest feathers—the clear mules one sees are birds that have lost the ticks they possessed, after the first moult or two. The difficulty of producing anything like light mules would be considerably reduced if we members of the Club could be prevailed upon to assist our fellow members, as I think we should do. What I mean is that any member who has a really good muling strain, should not guard it so jealously and keep it all to himself, but allow other members to try his celebrated strain. I well know one gentleman who destroyed his surplus stock rather than allow another breeder the chance of purchasing it. I am often asked, "Where can I procure a sib hen that will breed light mules?" and although I know dozens of men who profess to breed light mules, not one of them will part with a bird, because they fear someone else will reap what they have sown. Now I think it would be to the advantage of all concerned if something in the way I have suggested could be brought about.

In producing mules, either dark or light, do not place so much faith in colour-feeding, but go further into the colour question, and *breed* for colour by choosing only birds that you know are full of the requisite colour.

A small good-type mule, full of natural colour, is far better than a big coarse bird that has nothing to recommend it except its size and the amount of red pepper it can be made to carry.

While on the subject of colour, I will try and more fully explain a point my friend Mr. Peregrine Ball drew my attention to—that is, while I say that yellow mules cannot be bred from buff hens, he very clearly proves a case where he obtained a yellow bird from a buff hen. But I think this exception proves the rule. The explanation he gives (for which I am exceedingly obliged to him) goes a long way to explain matters, as the hen in question was bred from double yellows, and so, no doubt, was so full of colour, although not shewing it, that to throw a yellow young one was an event that might almost be expected. Of course the line between yellows and buffs must be drawn somewhere, and in this case it must have been so fine that it was almost imperceptible. Many of you, no doubt, know that there are both yellow and buff finches, and such a hen as I have described, if paired with a yellow finch, might almost be expected to produce a yellow mule.

In looking through the various classes of finches at last Crystal Palace Show, in a good light, the yellow birds could very easily be distinguished from the paler ones. In some kinds, notably the Siskins and Greenfinches, the difference was very marked. I think, when you have to use a buff hen in muling, a yellow finch should, if possible, be selected for its mate.

Since our Club was formed, one of the most knotty points it has been called upon to decide was the question of the supposed Canary-Bullfinch; and although, at the time, the Club came, in my opinion, to a wrong conclusion, it has since remedied the mistake and admitted that the bird after all, in spite of its breeder's sworn affadavit to the contrary, was a Canary-Bullfinch. I believe that, looked at by the side of the existing bird bred by our member Mr. Pratt, no one could come to any other conclusion about its parentage than that it was bred between cock Canary and hen Bullfinch. Our fellow member and Judge, Mr. C. Houlton (who, I am sorry to hear, is still very ill) maintained from the first that it was genuine, and time has proved him to be right. The bird in question has joined the great majority, but its place has been filled by the specimen, undoubtedly genuine, bred by Mr. Pratt, who, I am pleased to know, has again bred a fine specimen of the same cross from, I believe, the same parents; also a very good specimen of the Goldfinch-Bullfinch cross.

(*To be Continued*).

IN SEARCH OF A MADAGASCAR WEAVER.

For the last two years I have been trying, more or less energetically, to obtain a cock Madagascar Weaver, and our advertisement columns will bear record that I am still trying.

I wonder if any of our members have experienced a like difficulty in fulfilling such an innocent desire. If they have, I sincerely sympathise with them: while, if they have not, an account of my adventures may not perhaps be uninteresting. My story will at least show that a species which was comparatively common a few years ago, suddenly ceased to be imported, but for what reason I could never discover. I have asked several dealers their opinion, and only remember two getting beyond the "don't know" stage: one suggested that, as now most foreign birds are shipped to the continental ports, such as Marseilles, Antwerp, etc, the Madagascars are eagerly snapped up by foreign dealers, as there is a good demand for them on the Continent. Once, he continued, nearly all foreign birds used to come to England, and were then re-shipped to the Continent, so that we had the pick; but those days have gone by, never to return, he was afraid. The other importer volunteered the startling information that "They don't come over now,"—a fact which I have proved to be only too true, Well, my first effort was a casual stroll "down East," as we Londoners call it, and, as I quite expected to return with the object of my expedition, I set out in an unduly optimistic state of mind, and with my purse in my pocket. Some of the dealers informed me at once, that they had not the bird I wanted, but this was not the right answer: others were more reflective, and looked at their stock before the negative was given, while one (it was an old lady, I remember) was sorry she had not a Madagascar, but, she added brightly, that she should be having some "small stuff" (!) in next week, and I might look in then.

My ramble on that afternoon was comparatively tame, but on a later occasion I made a wider circuit, and and with similar results until I called at a shop I had heard of through an advertisement. The owner was engaged in trying to burrow under some packing cases when I entered, at least so it seemed, but on enquiry I learnt he was looking for a hammer. My facetious suggestion that he should look in his tool box, provoked a "Wajerwant?" so I explained; and a "There y' are," and a wave of the hand, indicated a long narrow cage filled with a fluttering mass of birds, and he continued his burrowing operations. I was sorry for the poor birds, but could not see a Madasgascar, and said so. A muffled reply came from the boxes, but the numberless twitterings prevented me from hearing the remark. A minute later the man backed out, triumphantly bringing the hammer with him, so I congratulated him, and asked what his reply was. "Why, there 's any amount of 'em," he said; "'ere," he added good naturedly, "I'll get yer one," and plunged his hand into the cage, and brought out about half-a-dozen struggling birds. "There," he continued, retaining a Red-billed Weaver, and throwing the others back, "feel 'im, fat as butter, ain't he?" (by the way, this seems a favourite remark in the trade). "Yes, but that's not a Madagascar," I replied, "a Madagascar is a red bird, with blackish wings and tail." "Well, so 's this, ain't it?" said he, "just coming into color; think I don't know a Madagascar?" he added, indignantly, as the thought struck him. I had my doubts on the matter, and pointed out the difference in the colour, particularly the beak, but the only concession I could get was that the bird might be a hen. Yes, now he looked at it more carefully, it was a hen. Didn't I want a hen? All right—and the poor bird was tossed back with a muttered adjectival comment on "waste of time." This was decidedly discouraging, for the "any amount of 'em" had raised my hopes. I got home safely though—with a Pintail Whydah; but as the bird died in its moult a short time afterwards, I had no reason to look back on my visit with undue elation.

I generally have a look round "down East" about every month, and although I have continually made enquiries of all my friends there, it has been without success up to the present. Most of them have my address, and are going to write to me when they have a Madagascar, but they have never written.

In the summer of 1900, I was at one of the South Coast watering places, and in my rambles came across a very small cottage, the front room of which was turned into a bird shop. Immediately interested, I looked in, and could hardly believe my eyes when I saw the bird I was in search of. To call "Ahoy there," through the open window, and then lift the latch and walk in, occupied much less time than it takes to write it. No one appeared in answer to my repeated calls and knocks, so I had a good look at the bird, and he was a splendid creature. His cage-mates were Canaries, and the contrast between his beautiful crimson and the various yellows of his companions, considerably heightened the effect. I was wondering what to do, when a venerable looking old fellow came in with a jug. He looked rather startled at seeing a stranger in the shop, and my affable "Good morning to you," only provoked a suspicious stare. "Do you sell birds?" I asked, and as I received no answer was about to repeat the question, when the absurdity of it struck me, so I altered it to "What is the price of the Madagascar?" "Did you say anything?" he answered, eyeing me carefully. I told him I had said something, three somethings in fact, and should like an answer to the last one, which I repeated. He appeared somewhat perturbed, and seemed to be carefully watching my lips. "I can't hear you," he said at last, so I reiterated the query as loudly as I could, but a pathetic shake of the head was the only reply. The Madagascar was still there, I noticed, and there it seemed likely to stay, unless I could make him hear, or someone came in who could. Then the old man said "Shout." I shouted obediently enough, but it was of no use. Coming closer to me, he said "I'm deaf—can't hear:" news indeed! A happy thought struck me, and I wrote my question on a piece of paper—but, of course, he could not read. I pondered over the situation, and it certainly seemed rather incongruous. Here was an old man, who could not read nor hear, left in charge of the shop, and the family had gone out for the day. It was very aggravating to have to leave the bird, but there was no help for it, and I intended calling next day. It so happened, however, that the next day's programme included a long drive; and when I did call again, a day or so later, the bird had disappeared. "Yes, Sir, we sold it the day before yesterday, to a lady," I was told, or in other words, the day after I had first called.

I find this article is taking up more space than I anticipated or its merits deserve, so I must be as brief as possible. In the spring of last year, I wrote to about a dozen dealers and stated my requirements. Two only replied: one at the West end had a cock Madasgascar, so I wrote and told him to keep it for me until the next Saturday, when I would call for it—if he was sure it was the bird I wanted. The next day brought a card with the laconic inscription, "Weavers all sold." The other man apparently had "lots of 'em," for he stated he would be pleased to send me one. I had grown sceptical by this time, and asked for a description of the bird, and the mention of a "black head" was proof of another disappointment.

After this I contented myself with looking through the advertisement columns of the various "birdy" papers, and one day, about the middle of last December, a well known northern dealer stated he had a Madagascar Weaver for sale, and I was not long in replying. I was dreading the answer would tell me the bird was sold; but no, I could have it for a trifle less than the amount mentioned, if I liked, as some of the feathers of the head had come out. The man appeared to be ultra careful, and said he would send the bird after the rush of the Christmas traffic. He kept his word as far as sending it, and it turned out to be a Crimson-crowned. I felt quite despondent. Evidently it was not intended that I should have a Madagascar Weaver, and life seemed so empty without one. I partly consoled myself with a satirical letter, and was met with the reply that he (the vendor) had "handled considerable of them," and he thought he had made no mistake. Still, if it was not the bird I wanted, he would rather I returned it, and he would refund the money. I then wrote again, giving him a detailed description of the bird, and quoted several authors, and also drew his attention to the fact that there is a coloured plate of it in Cassell's "Canaries and Cage Birds." The reply was apologetic enough, and "it puzzles me yet to know how the mistake occured," he wrote. The admission cleared the air, as it is only human to err, so I kept the bird.

Still trying, I wrote another dealer, who invites you to "state your wants," in his advertisement, and *he* also had a Madagascar Weaver. I called next day, and found the man busy writing. He motioned me to a cage containing Weavers, but there was no Madasgascar amongst them. On enquiry I learnt that it had been sold yesterday. Of course it had: I knew that before I started out. Hadn't he one that had *not* been sold yesterday? No, he had not.

Now I have come to the end of my adventures—for the present. The most irritating part of it all is that, about three years ago, I could have bought a pair in full colour, for less than I shall probably have to pay for one—when I do get the bird: and a short time afterwards I could have bought another just coming into colour, for two and six. The ashes of repentance, of how little avail are ye!

What other trials Fortune holds in store for me, I know not. The future is mercifully shielded from our eyes; but I shall be surprised at nothing, unless—and I think I shall be surprised at this—that I ever become the possessor of a Madagascar Weaver.

* * * * * *

The heavens have fallen! *Since writing the above*, I have paid one of my periodical visits eastwards, and at Mrs. Abrahams' shop saw three splendid birds in full colour. I was so astonished that I asked what they were, and on being assured that they really *were* Madagascar Weavers, and were *not* sold, I took the best of the trio.

Thus has my search ended! J. A. Swan.

PATIENCE EXEMPLIFIED.

It is a well-known saying that "Patience is a virtue," and whether one is waiting for the first appearance of a Club Magazine, or a light mule during the breeding season, the proverb is equally true. It is further said that "all things come to him who patiently waits." It is a blessing that the gentle word Patience loses none of its meaning to the true fancier, but influences his mind and actions, for the benefit of both his pets and their keeper. Patience is wanted in all the many struggles of the aviculturist—as well in trying to obtain something which at times seems almost impossible, such as the breeding of a Canary-Bullfinch—as in his efforts to gain the good opinion of his fellows and a respected position in the fancy, which ought to be within the reach of all.

Patience, not content with the exercise of her own great qualities, enlists, for the benefit of those with whom she dwells, the aid of her partner perseverance—and with the help of patience and perseverance much may be attained.

And fanciers, above all others, have need for the exercise of patience and perseverance, for without these virtues they will never excel in their hobby, either as breeders or exhibitors.

Some of us are at times sorely tempted to despond, and are even inclined to abandon the keeping and exhibiting of cage birds, in consequence of disappointments and misfortunes with our pets—when in such a strait let us remember this simple word—patience. The true fancier knows no such word as failure—he means to try again—he does so and wins. Even when he has succeeded he is not content, but goes on striving for further successes.

Mutual forbearance and kind words, whether in the bird room, the Show room, or the Committee room, are needed to cement fanciers together for the welfare of their hobby. Members who always bear this in mind greatly benefit the Club or Society to which they belong. Where goodwill exists among fanciers, there will patience have perfected her work.

It is the impatient man who causes nine-tenths of the strife and illwill in the fancy—but I say, be patient even with these, try by kindness to win them over to reasonableness. I know by experience that it is hard to meet some of these impatient people and hold out to them the hand of good fellowship—but do it by all means, for it is kindness which kills unkindness, and this life is too short to be at enmity with a fellow-man if it can possibly be avoided.

Brother fanciers, let me appeal to you. If you have not already begun, begin at once, and do all the good you can, not minding what the poor impatient ones may have to say. By so doing you will best follow the teachings of the Great Master, who was to all a noble example of patience. PEREGRINE BALL.

THE LAVENDER FINCH.

Everyone who has possessed this delightful Waxbill will no doubt agree with me that it is one of the prettiest and most most interesting of the Waxbill family. Its beauty of plumage, activity, pretty flight, and the ease with which it is tamed, combined with the low figure at which it can always be purchased, ought to insure its inclusion in every collection.

Lavender Finches are easily kept in perfect health (at least that is my experience) on the following dietary: Canary and white millet seed, millet spray, grass seed in the ear (a sod of grass just as pulled out of the earth with the mould attached is a source of great delight), a little sponge cake, with a few ants' eggs, and about a couple of mealworms each daily. Of the latter they are exceedingly fond: they do not eat them, like Weavers or insectivorous birds do, but run them along in their beaks, extract the soft parts, and leave the skins. When I take up the box of mealworms and open the door of my indoor aviary, they will come at once, perch on my fingers, hands, or arms, all excitement until they get their worm, when they at once go back to the cage to enjoy it at their leisure. The skins they will store away in some corner or cocoa-nut husk, and unless you are aware of this, and clean out all nests and husks regularly, you will be surprised at the "find" you will discover some morning.

Being exceedingly fond of a bath, they should never be without a plentiful supply of fresh water.

For some time my pair have been turning their attention to setting up house, and take great interest in a converted cigar-box decorated with Virginian bark. Next month I intend turning them into an outdoor aviary, in the hope that they will breed.

Their love-dance is most entertaining.

ANDREW PHILIP.

CORRESPONDENCE.

POINT PRIZES.

Sir,—I am glad that this proposal has been brought forward by Mr. Frostick. The "best bird" is a doubtful quantity—and in a mixed Show a foreigner rarely wins the prize, for most of the Judges incline to the Canaries (why, I cannot fathom, but possibly for fear of offending Canary fanciers).

I have no objection to the "Best Bird" Special being won by the exhibitor who sends only a few entries, provided he *has* only a few birds fit for exhibition. But when a man has a good team, which could be put on the show table to advantage and with a fair prospect of success, I think it a shame that he should send only one or two in a class, to try and catch the special. This is done often, and year after year we see it at the Palace Show. Some only show when they know the result is almost a foregone conclusion.

I maintain that if anyone makes 20 or 30 entries (his own *bona fide* property) he ought to have some advantage for each entry—for quantity is wanted to make up the Show. But it has of late been the policy of some Committees to encourage the small exhibitor at the expense of the large one.

Last season I had 20 to 30 entries at half a dozen Shows. My friend Mr. H. B. Smith also showed a good team. If we only made two or three entries in each class it would pay us better, and in many cases such a course would secure us a balance on the right side of the ledger.

I strongly support Mr. Frostick's proposal that the F. B. C. specials should be for points—as it is the fairest plan, causes the least trouble, and is the most satisfactory in the long run. W. Osbaldeston.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SURGERY.

Sir,—It may interest you to know that our farm bailiff, who is a remarkably intelligent and observant man, told me that it is quite true about Partridges and

Pheasants twisting their feathers round a broken or dislocated limb, and that a Frenchman had been writing to the papers about a similar habit in the Woodcock. My own theory is that in the case of a bird which has been shot or trapped, the bird probably does it to stop the bleeding rather than to keep the limb in place.

Writing of Pheasants, it may interest you to know that some years ago we had a case of a hybrid between an Amherst and a common Pheasant crossing with a Fowl; a proof that Pheasant hybrids are sometimes fertile.

Talking of hybrids among the *Gallinæ*, a farm bailiff once told me that he had known a case of a Guineafowl cock, whose mate had been killed, repeatedly trying to cross with Fowls. I think he said with Turkeys as well.

CHAS. CUSHNY.

NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD AND MULE CLUB.

Committee Meeting held at Headquarters, 25, High Holborn, 1st May, 1902,

Present:—Mr. Robson (Chairman), Mr. Pollard (Vice-Chairman), Messrs. Dewhurst, Frostick, Jones, Maxwell, Morgan, A. Plumbridge, Sandy, Turnber, Vale, and Hon. Sec.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read, considerable discussion took place as to their being confirmed—the cause of the discussion being Mr. Frostick's proposition, carried at the last meeting.

Letters were read from Messrs. Boerma (3), Ball, Browning, Jones, and Laskey. After all present had given their views, Mr. Pollard proposed a resolution, which Mr. Jones seconded; but on an amendment by Mr. Sandy, seconded by Mr. Dewhurst, "That the minutes of the last meeting be confirmed in their entirety," being carried, the original proposition was not put, and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

Letters were read from Messrs. Ball, Mason, Gough, Blackburn (3), Walker, Perkins, and Yallop.

The consideration of the application of the Norwich Alliance All England Cage-Bird Association was deferred until next month.

The application of the Hull Cage-Bird Show Committee was entertained, and on the proposition of Mr. Pollard, seconded by Mr. Dewhurst. two Gold Medals were granted, as last year.

The attention of the Committee having been called to a letter which appeared in a weekly contemporary by a correspondent signing himself a "Resigning Member," it was resolved that I should write an official letter on behalf of the Club in reply.

The offer of Mr. Gough of a Silver Medal to the member breeding the best Light Linnet Mule under the same conditions as last year was accepted with thanks.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Club :

Mr. PATTERSON, Little Rose Inn, Canterbury.
Mr. MOXON, Britton West, Wakefield.
Mr. MACKWELL, Bradford Road, Keighley.

MR. FULLJAMES' TESTIMONIAL.

The above testimonial to Mr. Fulljames has been taken up in such a lukewarm fashion that I have decided to close the list. The total of £8 10s. 6d. has been handed to Mr. Fulljames and I hold his receipt for same. The following are the names of the ladies and gentlemen who subscribed to the fund :—Miss Benbow, Mrs. C. Cooper, Mr. Bell, Mr. P. Ball, Mr. Browning, Mr. W. H. Cooper, Mr. Houlton, Mr. Jones, Mr. Judd, Mr. Lowne, Mr. Lott, Mr. Mays, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Massey, Mr. Oakey, Mr. Pollard, Mr. R. Phillips, Mr. Robson, Mr. Rettich, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Smellie, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Turnber, Mr. Vale, Mr. Wilson, Mr. D. McInroy, and Mr. Dewar.

W. A. LOTT, *Hon. Sec,*
103, Cheapside, E.C.

To the Hon. Sec. N. B. B. & M. C.

SIR,—Though I am sorry to see the columns of "Bird Notes" used for such a purpose, I am reluctantly compelled to ask you to grant me space in which to reply to Mr. Laskey's attack.

Upon reflection, I do not see why I should worry myself about Mr. Laskey's troubles. I am quite satisfied to know that the Committee have enough common sense to be able to distinguish who are and who are not their true friends. At the last monthly meeting, held on the 1st inst., the minutes containing the resolution that was carried at the previous one (and which seems to have caused Mr. Laskey so much anxiety) were confirmed by an ovewhelming majority of those present.

In a letter to the Committee, Mr. Laskey says the resolution was aimed at the L. & P. O. S., which was a *friendly* Society. If he thinks everybody has lost their memory, I do not. The L. & P. O. S. have always been very friendly when the N. B. B. & M. C. granted them their cups or medals, or paid their Judges, or guaranteed their Show from loss. But what have they done for us? What about the Carter's Cup: was that a friendly action? What about their going to the Crystal Palace to hold their Shows, when we were first in the field: was that a friendly action? When the N. B. B. & M. C. would have hired and paid for their show benching, one of their prominent "rulers" said he would burn it before we should have it: was that a friendly action? When we guaranteed their Show from loss in our sections, the result being a record entry, they simply ignored us altogether the year after: was that a friendly action? No! Mr. Laskey, you have ever been a good and faithful servant to the L. &. P. O. S., but so long as I have any influence left, your Committee shall not make a shuttlecock of the N. B. B. & M. C. again if I can prevent it. JOHN FROSTICK.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

All subscriptions became due on the 1st of May, and I shall be glad to receive 5/- from each member at his or her earliest convenience.

The Lady Dunleath has graciously accepted the post of President of the Club—to which office she has been duly elected by the Council in accordance with our rules. The Council have also elected Dr. C. B. d'Eyncourt Chamberlain, R.N., and Dr. E. Hopkinson, M.A., M.B., D.S.O., to be Vice-Presidents ; Mr. W. H. Betts, F.L.S., F.Z.S., to be Auditor, and Mr. Andrew Philip to be Scrutineer.

In order to facilitate business, the Council has elected two Committees, one to be called the Magazine Committee and the other the Show Committee. The functions of these Committees are obvious from their titles. The Magazine Committee consists of Messrs. Chamberlain, Cushny, Mumford, Oakey, Quin and Swan. The members of the Show Committee are Messrs. Frostick, Hamlyn, Oakey, Osbaldeston, Swaysland and Townsend.

The Council have passed a resolution to the effect that no medals or other special prizes will be offered by the Club for competition at any Show, unless *all* the members of the Club are elegible to compete at such Show.

HORATIO R. FILLMER,
Hon. Sec. FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
52, Ship Street, Brighton.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

Mr. GEORGE BELL, Dernatowny, Drumkeerin, Co. Leitrim.

Mr. H. C. HASELTINE, 299, Westminster Road, Liverpool.

NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED.

Mr. R. Colton, 244, Bramall Lane, Sheffield.
Proposed by Mr. Osbaldeston.

Messrs. R. Hyde & Co., Ltd., Harold Street, Camberwell, S.E. *Proposed by the* Hon. Sec.

Mr. Henry Fortlage, Suffolk House, Weybridge.
Proposed by Mr. Wiener.

To the Hon. Sec. F. B. C.

Sir,—With reference to the new rules proposed by Mr. Frostick, I must, in the interests of the Irish members, strongly protest against the rule relating to the Society's medals only being granted for competition when all members may exhibit and compete.

This rule may be all very good in England, where the fancy is universal, but there are so few exhibitors over here, that the Secretaries of the various Shows have to confine the entries to Ireland only, in order to encourage the few we have. If Mr. Frostick's proposal be carried, in order to obtain the medals of the F. B. C. in future, it would be necessary to make the Shows open "to the United Kingdom," and, in fact, to other countries, if all members of the Club were eligible. Before the Show Committees over here would do such a thing, they would wipe "Foreigners" off the schedules altogether.

Considering the great success of the last Dublin Show—in the foreign classes especially—I had hoped to enlist several new members of the Club, but they are very cautious, and like to know what benefits are to be derived, before they join, and unless I hold out hopes of getting a medal for competition here, in a Show confined to Ireland, I fear the Club, so far as Irish members are concerned, will cease to be of any interest.

Andrew Philip.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB MARKET.

The charge for advertisements is one penny for each bird named. Advertisements must be concisely worded, and clearly written on a separate sheet of paper, with the name and address of advertiser at the foot. The fee must in all cases be prepaid in stamps. The Hon. Sec. is authorised to decline Advertisements which he considers undesirable. Advertisements for the next issue must reach the Hon. Sec. not later than 15th June.

Grand Barbet *Megalaima grandis*, Nepaul, £2; *Megalaima asiatica*, India, 30/-.—Mrs. Hamilton,
Bannerdown House, Batheaston, Bath.

Second-hand books for fanciers, in perfect condition—'History of British Birds,' by F. O. Morris, B.A., 394 plates, hand-coloured, revised, corrected, enlarged, uncut edges, gilt top, sage morocco binding, 6 vols., 80/- complete; 'Pictures of Bird Life,' in pen and pencil, by Rev. M. G. Watkins, M.A., cloth gilt, size 12 by 15, 15/-; 'Parrots in Captivity,' 3 vols., 20/-; Jardine's 'Natural History,' 6 vols. ornithology, 15/-; 'Foreign Cage-Birds,' (Gedney) out of print, scarce, 12/6 two vols.; ditto, Vol. I., 'Parrots,' 5/-; 'Birds of the British Empire,' 3/6; 'Treasury of Natural History,' 7/6; 'Natural History of Cage-Birds, 2/6; 'Favourite Song Birds,' 2/6; 'Humming Birds,' 2/6; 'Domestic and Fancy Cats,' 1/9; 'The Guinea Pig,' 1/9; 'Our Summer Migrants,' 2/6; 'Profitable Canary Breeding,' 1/6; 'Waxbills and Mannikins,' 1/6; 'Diseases of Cage-Birds,' 10d.; Bradburn's 'British Birds,' 10d.

John Frostick, 18, Temperley Road, Balham.

Following birds wintered in cold aviary, now in Show condition—Two of the finest Scarlet Tanagers living, 25/-, 30/- each; Peach-faced Lovebirds, now nesting, 42/- pair, hen ditto, 21/-; Brown Mynahs, 15/- pair: Jay, 7/6; Pied Wagtail, hen, 2/6; Russian cock Bullfinch, 1st prize Royal Aquarium, 15/-; dark Linnet-Canary hybrid, cock, beautiful songster, 10/6; Linnet cock, Bullfinch hen, both cage-moulted, paired all winter, 12/6; Bramblefinch, selected for Shows, 5/6; ditto, cage-moulted, 7/6: Swainson's Sparrow, cock, 7/6; White Java, cock, 5/6; Grey, hen, 2/6; four Avadavats, slightly bald, 4/-; Ribbon Finches, 5/- pair; Weavers, 5/- pair.

John Frostick, 18, Temperley Road, Balham.

Wanted—Cock Madagascar Weaver.
J. A. Swan, 87, Lower Kennington Lane, S.E.

Wanted—Vol. I. 'Avicultural Magazine,' to complete set.
J. A. Swan,
87, Lower Kennington Lane, London, S.E.

Black-headed Mannikins, 2/- pair; Avadavats, Weavers, Bishops, Nutmeg Finches, Silverbills, Grey Waxbills, 3/- pair; Orange-cheeks, Combassous, 3/6 pair; Zebra Finches, Whydahs, Cordon Bleus, Ribbon Finches, 5/- pair; Budgerigars, 7/-; Yellow Norwich cock, 15/6; Cinnamon ditto, 15/6. Approval.
Miss Lattey,
Holleydene, Allensbank Road, Cardiff.

"Century Book of Gardening," fine, new bound, 20/-; I. and II. Vols. "Ibis," new bound, coloured plates, 5 series, rare, 30/-; "British Birds, their Nests and Eggs," new, illustrated by Frohawk, plates, eggs coloured, in 3 large vols., well bound, complete, 45/-; 3 vols. Dr. Greene's "Parrots in Captivity," first issue, coloured plates, 20/-; Dr. Russ' "Speaking Parrots," new, coloured plates, 4/6; Wright's "Poultry Book,"by Cassell, coloured plates, 18/-, bound fine; "Book of Dogs," Vero Shaw, by Cassell, coloured plates, 18/-, bound fine; Australian Piping Crow, 35/-; Hangnest, rare, black with orange shoulders, 20/-; Troupial, fine, 10/-; Shâma, in song, tame, a pet, 35/-; hen ditto, 25/-; Cow-bird, 10/-, fine; Pope, 5/-; Javas, 15/-, fine; Malabar Green Bulbul, 25/-; Amazons, talking, 20/-, 30/-, 40/-, 60/-, according to capabilities; grand Yellow-naped Amazon, 60/-; Cockatoo Corilla, very tame, follows about, 25/-; Scarlet Tanager, 12/6; one Show bird, 25/-. Pairs—Madagascar Love-birds, 4/6; Ribbon Finches, 4/-; Long-tailed Grass, 25/-; Rufous-tailed Grass, 35/-; Popes, 20/-, ex. fine; Pagoda Starlings, 10/-; Cockatiels, adult, 12/6; Rose Cockatoos, 25/-; Zosterops, in Show form, 20/-; Yellow-breasts, 7/6; Brown-cheeks, 7/6; Black-head, 17/6; Conures, Pekin Robins, beauties, 7/6. All acclimatized.
W. Osbaldeston, 2, St. John Street, Preston.

☞ *All communications for "Bird Notes," in reference to the British Bird and Hybrid department should be addressed to the Hon. Sec. of the National British Bird and Mule Club, and all communications in reference to Foreign Birds to the Hon. Sec. of the Foreign Bird Club.*

"MEATING OFF" AND FEEDING SOFT-BILLS.

By JOHN FROSTICK.

(Continued from page 147).

"MEATING OFF" successfully. What a terrifying effect the words "meating off" have on the young fancier! and how wise the old 'uns look when discussing this or that phase of the subject, and how jealously they guard what they think is the secret of the trick; yet, after all, there is no secret at all, nothing to be found out that could not be learned by anyone with the exercise of a little common sense and reasoning.

There is one way, and one way only, to reconcile a bird to the loss of his freedom, and induce him to partake of the food which we intend to provide him with for the rest of his natural life. A Nightingale, for example, suddenly taken from his natural surroundings, where nearly all his food consists of creeping or winged live insects, ought not to be expected to recognize instantly the fact that an inert mass of dried ants' eggs, hard boiled egg, bread, and grated carrot, is a capital and wholesome substitute for the green caterpillars, live ants and other insects that have formed his sole diet since he was hatched. Therefore, if we bear this in mind, we shall not go far astray. For the first few days, or in some cases it may be weeks, our little prisoner will eat nothing but LIVING food, and don't forget it! This may take the form of mealworms, of which it will consume up to 50 per day. Three Nightingales, meated off last year, ate 1,500 in ten days, and I did not grudge them one—all made fine birds.

From the first day ants' eggs and egg should be given with the worms, and after the first day it is a good plan to cut some of the worms in halves, so that portions of the "dead" food get eaten with the live, and in this way, by gradually reducing the latter to a reasonable quantity, we get them on to the artificial food, and they are then what is called "meated off." The old wheeze of putting some mealworms under a watch-glass, with egg and ants' eggs smeared around it, with the idea of getting the bird to eat the latter, while pecking at the former, is a cruel senseless dodge, that will result very quickly in the death of the bird; for after bobbing a few times at the glass, in his fruitless efforts to get at the worms, he will speedily retire to a corner of the cage in disgust, and very soon save you the trouble of providing any more worms for him.

Should a bird absolutely refuse to eat at all for the first twenty-four hours after his capture (as some may, especially if they have been long caught, without opportunity of feeding naturally), his life may often be saved by gently cramming him with mealworms cut in halves, pushed carefully down his throat with the aid of a match stick, two or three at a time, at intervals of half an hour. A few drops of warm milk poured down his throat, will help to revive him. He should be carefully watched until he has taken food of his own accord, then the cramming may cease, and all will be well.

The smaller soft-billed birds, from a Nightingale downwards in size, quickly become tame and used to cage life, and may, in fact, be shown very soon after capture, if properly treated from the beginning. But, of course, they are very wild at first, and must not on any account be placed in an ordinary cage, unless the front is wholly covered with muslin or butter-cloth, so that they may have sufficient light only to feed by, but may not themselves be seen. They will then gradually get accustomed to their surroundings, and not dash about and spoil their feathers. To prevent this, some tie the tips of each wing, separately, with string: in which case you will not be able to show the bird until he has moulted, beside which it is unnecessarily cruel.

In my own case, I keep one or two cages especially for meating off fresh birds. They are the ordinary French travelling boxes, that dealers receive small foreign birds in from the Continent, and with a few alterations they answer the purpose admirably. I take all the perches out, with the exception of three or four, make a door at each end, and fasten some loose fabric, like muslin, to the inside of the wire front, to prevent the birds from putting their beaks through the wires and rubbing the feathers off. These cages are in size about 2ft. 6in. by 1ft. 6in. by 8in. high, and are large enough for four birds, which, when well on food are placed singly in the ordinary cages, the muslin cover being taken off by degrees, a little at a time.

I used to think, at one time, that it would be a good plan to place with each batch of fresh caught birds, an older caged bird well on its food, with the idea that it would teach the new comers to feed; but I soon found that plan would not work at all, as the older bird, grown bold in confinement, simply gorged all the tit-bits himself, and frequently prevented the others from feeding at all; with the result that, if I had not quickly removed him, the later arrivals would have died of starvation.

HANDREARING from the nest may be accomplished successfully with any of our British songsters, without any previous experience being necessary. All that is required is a little tact, cleanliness, and regularity in feeding, as is proved by the fact that a friend of mine, who had never even kept an insectivorous bird in his life, took for his first attempt three Swallows from the nest (leaving two for the old birds) and safely reared the lot. He worked under difficulties, as he was by trade a joiner, and took the birds with him daily to work, and kept them above his bench in an old box, feeding them every time he had a moment to spare. When his daily labour was done, he brought them home again, and let them have a fly round the kitchen, where they would perch on the clothes line and fly on to his hands to be fed, I dare say wondering what a great, big, but kind, foster-father they had. Yes! they were very engaging pets, those Swallows, with their pretty, graceful, and confiding habits, as all handreared birds are. But I prefer that all the smaller species should be wild-caught, as they soon adapt themselves to cage life, quickly become "finger-tame," retain their natural wild song, are larger and finer coloured, and seem to possess more stamina when reared naturally by their parents.

With Thrushes, Starlings, Crows, Wrynecks, and Woodpeckers, the case is different, and I would advise all who admire such birds to have only handreared specimens, as otherwise, unless caught as "branchers," they never become tame, and it is quite impossible to keep them in good feather. A thoroughly wild bird can never be a pleasure to anyone, when it constantly tries to dash out its brains on the approach of its keeper: therefore handrearing must be resorted to. It is best to take them from the nest when they are what is called "pen-feathered," as they are then easier to rear than when taken at a later date. For the first few days they are best kept in a basket with a lid on, on a nest of hay cut in short lengths. They should be fed on a mixture of fresh hard-boiled eggs, ants' eggs, and bread meal, made rather moist but not pappy, and if at first they do not gape of their own accord, a little must be carefully crammed down their throats: afterwards a pair of surgical forceps will be found a useful implement with which to convey the food to them, as being less liable to injure their soft and delicate beaks than the fingers. Mealworms cut in halves—or any of the other insects mentioned may also be given, and, in the case of the larger Crows, raw lean beef finely shredded. Great care must be taken to remove all droppings instantly, as it is most essential to their wellbeing that they be kept, as in nature—scrupulously clean. As soon as they are able to perch, they should be removed to a cage, the larger the better, that they may exercise themselves and grow strong on the wing. Kept in such a cage or aviary, I know of no prettier sight than a nest of young Thrushes —"buds of melody"—clamouring to be fed the moment they see their fond master approaching.

Magpies, Jackdaws, Jays, and Starlings, reared in this way, but caged separately and carefully taught, make capital talkers; the latter especially. One Starling that I used to have, equalled any Parrot, and piped a tune more beautifully than any expensively trained Bullfinch I ever heard. Poor Jacob! like many another famous pet, he has long since gone the way of all things mortal, but in fancy I can still hear his sweet voice saying, "Kiss pretty Jacob," "Coach and six for Jacob," "Give us a kiss," "Come on." Who could resist the charms of such a delightful pet?

In conclusion, what I have written is the result of 30 years practical experience with nearly every species of British cage-bird, which I have myself kept, from Fire-crested Wrens to Choughs, the smallest and largest, and if the results of my experience help to prolong and make the lives of our little feathered cage-pets happier, and bring only one more recruit to swell the ranks of those who, like myself, know that to understand is to appreciate this most delightful hobby of mankind, I shall be amply repaid for my trouble.

PARROTS AND PARRAKEETS.

By Dr. C. S. Simpson.

(Continued from page 150).

Guilding's Amazon (*C. guildingi*) is a magnificent bird which is rarely seen in this country. The general colour of this bird is orange brown, the pileum, lores, and feathers under the eye white, the occiput, sides of head and throat blue. It is the only one found in the Island of St. Vincent. Another species which is decidedly rare is the small White-browed Amazon (*C. albifrons*). In this bird a narrow band above the beak and a ring round the eye are scarlet, the forehead is white, and the crown blue.

Other species which are occasionally to be obtained are the Mealy Amazon (*C. farinosa*) which almost equals Guilding's in size, and is uniformly green with a mealy or powered appearance; Dufresne's Amazon (*C. dufresneana* which is distinguished by the orange forehead and blue cheeks; the Yellow-naped (*C. auropalliata*); the Cuba Parrot (*C. leucocephala*) one of the smaller species, with a white forehead and crown, and with cheeks and throat of rosy pink; and the Jamaica Parrot (*C. collaria*) which has a white forehead, blue cheeks, and reddish throat. A noticeable point in connection with the Common Blue-fronted Amazon is its tendency to albinism: individuals vary very much in the extent of the yellow about the head, and it is quite common to see specimens more or less marked with patches of pale yellow, while occasionally a completely yellow bird is met with.

The PIONUS PARROTS.—Less attractive than the Amazon Parrots are their near relatives the Pionus Parrots, which are also inhabitants of Central and South America. They are but seldom imported, and with the exception of the Hawk-headed Parrot, are not, as a rule, sufficiently attractive to induce the amateur to pay the high prices usually asked for them. Those which are imported are the Hawk-headed Parrot (*P. accipitrinus*), the Blue-headed (*P. menstruus*), the Dusky (*P. fuscus*), and Maximilian's Parrot (*P. maximiliani*). The Hawk-headed Parrot is described, by those who have been fortunate enough to possess specimens, as a most intelligent and interesting bird, and a good talker. It is a curious looking bird, and has the power of erecting the feathers of the neck when excited, so as to form a sort of frill or ruff, which gives it a very formidable appearance. The head of this species is greyish brown, much lighter in some specimens than in others, but whether this difference is due to age or sex I am unable to say. The back and wings are green, and the feathers of the nape, breast, and abdomen deep red, each feather being edged with blue. It is as large as the Grey Parrot. The remaining species are tame and quiet, wanting in intelligence, and very seldom learn to speak. They are somewhat less hardy than the Amazon Parrots, and require the same food and treatment as the latter.

THE CAIQUES (*Caica*) are a small South American genus containing but three species. Two of these, the Black-headed Caique, and the Yellow-thighed Caique, are occasionally imported, and are said to be hardy, affectionate, and good talkers. The Yellow-thighed Caique (*C. xanthomera*) is the rarer of the two; the upper parts are green, the head and neck orange-yellow, the breast and abdomen cream colour, the thighs and flanks yellow. The Black-headed Caique (*C. melanocephala*) is somewhat similar in appearance, but has the top of the head and the naked skin around the eye black, and the flanks and thighs orange. Each is about nine inches in length.

PŒOCEPHALUS.—Nearly allied to the Pionus Parrots are Jardine's Parrot (*P. gulielmi*) and the Senegal Parrot (*P. senegalus*) which inhabit the central part of West Africa. These species are somewhat delicate when first imported, but hardy enough when once acclimatised. Jardine's Parrot is about 11ins. in length, of a bright green colour, the forehead, thighs, and bend of the wing orange-red, and the lores and tail black. The Senegal Parrot is a commoner bird and smaller than Jardine's. The head and throat of this species are grey, the upper part of the body and a band across the breast green, the lower breast and abdomen orange-yellow. Individuals of both these species learn to talk, but the majority do not. Canon Dutton, however, considers Jardine's Parrot the most desirable of all Parrots as a cage bird, placing it above even the Grey and Amazon Parrots.

THE VASA PARROTS (*Coracopsis*) may be described as humble relations of the Grey Parrot; there are five species, varying in size from the Great Vasa (*C. vasa*) which measures 20ins., to the Praslin Parrot (*C. barklyi*) which is 12ins. in length. All are alike of a dingy brownish-black colour, and though they are reported by those who have kept them to have many good qualities, their very unattractive appearance prevents them from becoming popular. A Great Vasa Parrot in the parrot house at the Zoo for years enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest inhabitant. This species, and one other species, are found in Madagascar, the Praslin inhabits the island from which it takes its name, and the remaining two species come from the Comoro Islands.

THE ECLECTUS PARROTS (*Eclectus*) are among the most splendidly coloured of the short-tailed parrots, and have excited great interest and controversy among ornithologists with regard to the differences between the various species and still more with regard to the differences between the sexes of the same species. These points have, however, been finally cleared up by numerous dissections, and the facts regarding them may be briefly summed up as follows :—There are six species of Eclectus Parrots known to us at present. Each of these species is characterised by the remarkable fact that the prevailing colour of the male is bright green, while that of the hen is a still more brilliant red. The two species which are kept as cage birds are the Red-sided Eclectus (*E. pectoralis*) and the Grand Eclectus (*E. roratus*). The males of the two species are almost identical in appearance, being of a brilliant grass-green colour, with a patch of scarlet on either side, immediately beneath the wing. The females, however, differ considerably from one another. In the female Red-sided Eclectus, the head, neck, and upper breast are scarlet, the lower breast and abdomen blue, and the under surface of the tail scarlet. The female Grand Eclectus has the head and upper breast red with a purplish tint, the lower breast and abdomen purple, the under tail coverts and a band at the tip of the tail bright yellow. These parrots are rather dull in confinement, and rarely, if ever, learn to talk. They require the same treatment as the Amazons. They inhabit the Moluccas, Tenimber Islands and the Papuan Islands. The so-called Muller's Eclectus, which is sometimes imported, has been wrongly placed in this genus, from which it differs notably in the similarity of the sexes.

(To be Continued).

HYBRID BREEDING.

By H. W. VALE.

(Continued from page 158).

I had anticipated being able to tell you all about the two last-mentioned birds, but owing to Mr. Pratt's removal from Suffolk to Scotland I have not yet had the pleasure of seeing his last season's achievement—sufficient to say that he was the only member of our Club who succeeded in producing the Canary-Bullfinch in the season 1901, so, in the absence of any other competitors, the Gold Medal I offered must necessarily go to him. While on the subject of medals, I am sorry to find that so few of them have been claimed, but I hope that those members who so kindly gave the medals last season will again allow them to be competed for in the coming season of 1902. For my own part I will again offer a Gold Medal for the best specimen of a hybrid bred between either the cock Canary and hen Bullfinch, the cock Siskin and hen Bullfinch, or the cock Redpoll and hen Bullfinch—the birds to be bred under the same conditions as last year. There is every reason to expect better results, seeing that one of our members at Brixton so far succeeded as to have fertile eggs from the Siskin and Bullfinch; and after the fertile egg our worthy Secretary found in his aviary from the Hawfinch-Bullfinch, who can say that the coming season will not find a winner of the great prize once offered for the Chaffinch mule? During the past Show season I have had no less than three specimens of birds to examine pronounced by their owners to be a cross between the Bramblefinch and Chaffinch. The result, on close examination, was the same in each case, and very disappointing to me. The first bird was a Chaffinch pure and simple, caught wild—its only claim to the Bramblefinch cross was a slight colouring on the throat and shoulders resembling that bird. The next was said to be bred by its owner in an outdoor aviary, and was highly valued and well cared for, but proved to be only a hen

Bramblefinch. Its owner declined to give me further particulars than that he bred it, and has not yet acknowledged the return of the bird or the receipt of my letter and opinion. So much for the Chaffinch cross—I believe the genuine specimen has yet to be bred. I should be glad to know whether it is a fact, as some assert, that the union of the Chaffinch and its mate takes place in the air. If any of my readers who have more opportunity than I have for the study of wild bird life, have ever noticed this. I should be glad to know. I think if we could settle this point it would go a long way towards deciding whether the Chaffinch cross may or may not be expected.

I am trying myself for several crosses this season. Last years results were *nil*, owing to no fault of my own, but my experiences encouraged me to try again. I may tell all those of our members who are thinking of trying the cross with the Bullfinch, that the lesson I learnt, both from my own birds and from those of my friends, was that to allow the presence of more than one Bullfinch hen in the same aviary, was fatal to all efforts on the part of the finch when called on by the hen Bullfinch. This has occurred in aviaries as large as from five to ten feet square—whether the same would occur in a large garden aviary I have not yet proved, but as far as it goes it shows quite clearly that the best results are obtained when each pair of birds have a separate tenement to themselves. A cross I should very much like to see again is that between Redpoll and Bullfinch—a very beautiful and also a valuable cross, and but very rarely seen. I should also like to see more notice taken of other hybrids bred from the more common kinds of finch, such as the Redpoll, Twite, and Greenfinch. For those who have time to spare, there are yet many more lovely crosses to be obtained, and I think if the same amount of time and trouble were expended on the choice of a hen for these latter crosses, I see no reason why they should not take quite as prominent a place in the cage-bird world as do the crosses from the Goldfinch.

Where the classification has been given, notably at the Palace, the prizes won by these common birds were quite equal to those won by the most favoured clear or even-marked. Then, I say, in justice to them, let the market value rise in proportion to their merits as good specimens of their kind. Another cross I think is very often badly used, that between the cock Linnet and hen Greenfinch : a cross not difficult to obtain, but quite as beautiful in its way as the gorgeous plumaged crosses from the Bullfinch.

My paper will not be complete without a few words about food, feeding, and treatment, and I will at once tell you I am no believer in drugs and prescriptions ; the only exception being some mild aperient or a little tonic, as the case may warrant. I believe far more in prevention than in cure. No bird is of value either as a show bird or a breeder, which has to be continually under the doctor. To study the wants of our birds and to supply them in as natural a way as possible is far more conducive to success than the use of stimulating and forcing food, which they cannot digest or even retain. As proof of this, I have birds now flying out of doors for the past two years in all weathers, that get nothing but plenty of fesh air and plain canary seed with green food in season, and are all in the best of health and in full song, and have never tasted medicine of any kind.

Feed only on the best seeds procurable, do not overcrowd, allow the bath when ever possible, and your birds will want but little else.

As to feeding the different species, it is too big a subject for my time, but when you have a bird doing well do not imagine that this, that, and the other, that somebody recommends, is going to make it breed or win whatever you like. Leave well alone, and if your birds are not ready to nest when you want them to, you must wait till they are, and not expect them to go against nature.

THE BIRDS OF WEST AFRICA.

Having been stationed up country in the Gambia Protectorate for the last six months, I have had an opportunity of watching many of our commonly imported West African birds in their wild state, and think a few notes may interest our readers.

Most of the common Waxbills and small finches abound, and beside these there are many which I have never seen in captivity; mostly dull-coloured insignificant looking little birds.

Every village swarms with Firefinches, the cocks gorgeous in their scarlet plumage, attended by about a dozen more soberly-clad hens. They are absolutely domesticated, flying in and out of the houses and building in the grass roofs, and finding the greater part of their food in the compounds around the houses. This for the most part consists of the wasted seeds of the millet, and one often sees the heap of husks, which accumulate where the women winnow the ears, red with these little birds. Besides they also hunt for and catch a large number of small insects in the thatch, and perhaps the fact that they require more insect food than their congeners may partly account for their undoubtedly greater delicacy as cage-birds.

Cordon Bleus and Common Waxbills are the next most noticeable birds. These, although they do not actually live in the villages, are confined, like all the small seed-eaters, to the cultivated ground immediately surrounding the villages; here any day one sees, beside the above, Lavender Finches, Zebra Waxbills, Singing Finches and many other small seed-eaters, while Glossy Starlings (both Long-tailed and Purple), Pipits, Reed Cuckoos, and Warblers in hundreds, represent the soft-billed birds.

Just now (May) the Weavers are coming into colour, a change which in nature apparently takes place very much more rapidly than in captivity: one week one sees flocks of almost silent brown birds round the wells, the next the cocks are all in colour, and the chattering noise they make is deafening.

The commonest Weaver about here is a large yellow one with a black mask, but I have seen at least two kinds of Bishops as well. Waxbilled Weavers are also pretty common, but shyer and not so conspicuous as the others.

Combassous and Paradise Whydahs, generally in families of one cock and six to twelve hens, one sees every day. They seem to prefer the more distant cultivated lands, and apparently are in colour for a longer time than the Weavers, at least I have seen full-coloured cocks ever since my arrival here in January.

Of the Serins, I have kept two kinds—the common Green Singing Finch and a nearly allied species (I think the Bridled Serin). There is another one, grey and yellow, which has a really sweet song and which the natives call "el paca." I think I have seen this bird occasionally in a consignment of West African birds in England, but have not seen one near enough to be certain.

I have been unable to get many birds caught during my stay, the natives having apparently very little idea of trapping, and the only birds brought in at all frequently have been Parrots (Senegal and Ring-necked), and these are generally nestlings.

Another bird, which I caught myself, I had never seen before: it was one of the genus *Poliospiza*, a dull-coloured Sparrow-like bird of no interest except perhaps for its rarity.

In Bathurst the boys catch a good many Singing Finches (Canaries as they call them) but up country it is difficult to get the natives to understand what one wants, and even when one succeeds in that they are often too lazy or too ignorant to do what is wanted. Only the other day I thought I had at last found two cow-boys who seemed to be able to set satisfactory traps, and they went away promising "plenty baby birds." Four days passed, when they returned with four other boys they had taken on as assistants, but with only one Dove as a result of their prolonged hunting. E. HOPKINSON.

THE MIGRATION OF THE SWALLOW AND HOUSE MARTIN.

Some of these insectivorous summer migrants reach the British Isles as early in the year as April, others come in May. Adult males lead, then the females, the young of the preceding season following. It is a most interesting fact that the birds arriving first are the last to depart, and the latest arrivals generally are the first, along with the current season's young, to take their departure, accompanied and presumably guided by those prevented from breeding, or which have lost their broods. The object of the spring migration, when carefully thought out, seems to be reproduction. When this duty has been performed and moulting is over, which is accomplished by the latter end of August or early in September, the birds are again, most of them, eager to make the return journey, which is undertaken in the months of September and October. Then the order of arrival is reversed, for on the return journey the youngest birds (pioneered as aforesaid) lead the way—which to a great extent accounts for so many being lost. The adult males go next—then the females, their moult being delayed by maternal duties. All heading for the South of England, where some cross over to France by Dover and Calais, older birds departing from our south shores, termed the "South Hams," cross the English channel, all companies journeying through France, but by slightly different routes, and cross the Mediterranean by way of the Island of Corsica and Sardinia to Tunis, North Africa, thence South to Algeria and Tripoli, their winter home. Whilst those eaving the extreme West of England and Ireland embark rom Falmouth and the Land's End for Brest, thence through France, by way of Andorra, coasting to Barceona in Spain, whence the journey is continued south, probably resting a little on the Balearic Islands in the

Mediterranean. Then on to Algiers, North Africa. Skirting the Sahara they travel on to South Algeria and Tripoli, some even going so far south as the Nile Valley.

If at this point I were to call in the assistance of a pigeon flyer to explain these wonderful feats, he would say, "Oh! there's nothing wonderful about it. I have Pigeons that know the road from France to Barnsley in Yorkshire,because they have been trained to it,and if they had served the same apprenticeship as the Swallow and Martin, in time I would back them for a journey round the world." Quite true! It has taken these birds hundreds of years to extend their breeding ranges to the British Isles. always coming and going by the same route, generation after generation, until they have become thoroughly acquainted with every high hill and headland, each river and valley, lofty down, heath, and forest, indicating the fly line, from which they never depart. Their route of migration is, in fact, a law of their own, which, like that of the Medes and Persians, changeth not. But, some one may say, "Why do they cross the wide seas, and why not in some cases cross where one shore may be seen from the other ?" Can the imagination of man picture for a moment the time when, ages ago, there was no English channel—when France and England joined—when parts of the Continent of Europe were connected with North Africa by the Islands of Corsica and Sardinia, and also by Italy and Sicily—when we could not take ship and sail from Southampton to Suez ? There would thus have been less difficulty in crossing over from Africa and Europe to the British Isles whilst these migratory species were engaged in the extension of their breeding areas, and although many of these routes are year by year becoming more difficult and dangerous, still the descendents of those birds, which opened out such routes, continue to follow the same road when passing to and fro—and so it will be till time with birds and men shall be no more.

David Bell.

REVIEW.

"*Parrakeets: being a Practical Handbook to those species kept in captivity.*" *By D. Seth-Smith, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. Part I.*

This valuable work, which will, we understand, be completed in six parts, is published by Mr. R. H. Porter, of 7, Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W., the price being 6/- per part.

The present Editor of the "Avicultural Magazine," is well known to all aviculturists as one of our leading writers on foreign birds. He shares that position with a good many others—but he possesses certain qualities (in particular, sanity of judgment and freedom from crochets) which elevate him to a somewhat unique place among avicultural authors—a place which is becoming every year more assured.

A new work from Mr. Seth-Smith's pen is consequently sure of a welcome from all lovers of foreign birds, and we can assure our readers that "Parrakeets," will fulfil their highest expectations, and if they are wise enough to become possessors of it, it will always occupy an honoured corner in their bookcase.

Part I deals with the Lorikeets, the Cockatiel, and some of the Conures. There are four hand-coloured plates, figuring seven species.

Mr. Seth-Smith's advice as to the treatment of Lorikeets is admirable—and we heartily endorse every word of it. "The food most suitable for Lorikeets in captivity is, unquestionably, milk-sop (slightly sweetened), ripe fruit, and seed (canary, hemp and millet) although very little of the latter is eaten." . . . . . "I must not omit to say that the milk-sop for Lorikeets must always be made with *boiling* milk, poured on to either crumb of bread or plain biscuit, and slightly sweetened with sugar. Needless to add this must be given fresh daily, as well as such fruit as soft apple, pear, grapes or banana."

We kept Lories and Lorikeets for several years on the above diet—except that we did not sweeten the sop and seldom offered any seed at all. We had, altogether, five different species—*and never lost a single bird.* Can anyone who adopts the seed diet for Lorikeets claim an equal success?

Most of the illustrations are by Mr. H. Goodchild, and are of a high degree of excellence.

"Parrakeets" will undoubtedly be the standard work on the subject, for aviculturists.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SILKWORMS AS BIRD FOOD.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Frostick's question in the April number of "Bird Notes," I must tell him that he is quite right in supposing that what I inadvertently termed "dried silkworms" are in the chrysalis stage. They are simply what remains of the insect after the cocoon has been boiled to remove the outer silken part, and they are sold here under the name of "pacozzi," at about a penny a pound.

Should Mr. Frostick like to try them, I could send him a sample by post. I find the birds eat them readily, and seem to thrive on them; also this food does not make the birds smell so bad as when they eat meat. It is also convenient to have them all the year round.

G. TOMMASI.

POINT PRIZES.

SIR,—The proposal, that in future the medals of the Foreign Bird Club shall only be granted for the most "points," is open to a very serious objection. Owing to the very limited number of Shows at which our medals can be competed for, it would place the small exhibito outside the most remote chance of ever winning the coveted honour, there being sufficient large exhibitors to win, on "points," the few medals we can offer. This alone, in my opinion, should be sufficient reason for the Council to negative the proposition, as we ought not to study the members as large or small exhibitors, but simply as exhibitors, and the medals should be granted only on the understanding that *all* members of the Club exhibiting, should at least have a fair chance of winning them.

If the object of the proposal is to induce members, who are small exhibitors, to send more birds to a Show—sufficient to compete with a fair chance of success—well and good ; but, for various reasons, most members are unable to exhibit as largely as they would perhaps like. Are they to be practically debarred from the competition on that account ?

The argument that there can be no "best" bird among several bests, is surely rather weak, and seems dealing with words in their literal, and merely grammatical sense. The large exhibitor always has a better chance of success, even by our present method, than has the small exhibitor: it is only a matter of simple proportion.

Again, if the proposal becomes law, the competing element will, to a very large extent, be eliminated, and the result in most cases will be quite a foregone conclusion. I will undertake to name the winners of our medals when offered at our London Shows (and also at some of the country ones), before the judging takes place, if I were shown the list of exhibitors—aye, and in some cases without seeing it, for large exhibitors do not spring up in a night like mushrooms.

Agreeing, as we all must, with the proposer's remark, that "it is not our duty to consider the individual but the many," and recognising that large exhibitors are greatly in the minority, I cannot but hope that the Council will consider the interests of the members generally, before the interests of those favoured few who are able to exhibit to their heart's content.

J. A. SWAN.

NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD AND MULE CLUB.

Committee Meeting held at Headquarters, 5th June, 1902.

Present: Mr. Pollard (Vice-Chairman), Messrs. Frostick, Vale, Morgan, Jones, C. Cooper, Maxwell, A. Plumbridge, Dewhurst, Turnber, Sandy, and the Hon. Secretary.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Letters were read from Messrs. Boerma, Cockrane, Crabb, W. H. Cooper, Laskey, Hills, Yallop, Ball, Mrs. Woodruffe, Colton, Cook, Cushny, Wilkinson, Midgley, Jones, and Galt.

Proposed and seconded that the Hon. Sec. write to Messrs. Merrifield and Bailey asking them to join as Committeemen.

Mr. W. H. Cooper having resigned the office ot Auditor to the Club, it was proposed and seconded that Mr. C. Cooper be Auditor, which was carried unanimously. Mr. Cooper intimated the pleasure it would be to him to accept the post of Auditor, and that he should always do his utmost to further the interests of the Club as far as lay in his power to do so.

Two of the elected Club Judges in the British Section having resigned, viz., Messrs. Hills and Cook, the next on the voting list in that Section being Messrs. Mays and Dewar, they were elected to the vacant positions.

The application of the Norwich Alliance All England Cage-bird Association for the Club's support and patronage was again before the Committee, and it was agreed that we grant them one Gold and one Silver Medal of the Club upon the usual conditions.

The application of the Nottingham and Notts. Ornithological Society for patronage and support was next considered, and it was decided that we give them one Gold and one Silver Medal of the Club upon the usual conditions.

Mr. Frostick proposed that as soon as possible a classification of British Birds and Hybrids be drawn up for the guidance of Show Secretaries where our Medals are given. Seconded by Mr. Vale.

Hearty vote of thanks to our Vice-Chairman closed the meeting.

A Special General Meeting of the National British Bird and Mule Club was held at Headquarters on the 29th May, 1892, convened by requisition of the 14th May, signed by the following gentlemen :—Mr. Boerma, Mr. Tolhurst, Mr. Jno. Pollard, Mr. Browning, Mr. Jones, Mr. W. H. Cooper, Mr. Laskey, and Mr. A. E. Cheney.

Present: Mr. Robson (in the Chair), Mr. Pollard (Vice-Chairman), and the following members of the Club:—A. Plumbridge, Sandy, Frostick, Morgan, Turnber, Fulljames, Pollard, Boerma, Laskey, W. H. Cooper, Merrifield, Vale, Cook, Robson, Maxwell, C. Cooper, Dewhurst, Chatterton, Tolhurst, Jones, Dickery, and the Hon. Secretary.

The Hon. Sec. having read the requisition,

A long discussion was entered upon as to the voting papers not being sent to the members as in the requisition. Nearly all those present taking part in the discussion. Messrs. Laskey, W. H. Cooper, and Mr. Fulljames taking the lead.

At Mr. Laskey's request the Chairman put the proposition as to whether voting papers should be sent to all members in accordance with the requisition, which was lost by 13 votes to 7. Mr. S. Cook then proposed a resolution, seconded by Mr. Laskey, "That the resolution proposed by Mr. Frostick, and seconded by Mr. Sandy, on the 3rd April, and confirmed on the 1st May, be rescinded, the same being detrimental to the Club," which was lost by 13 against and 1 for—4 members not voting.

Some discussion took place as to the power of this Special General Meeting to rescind the resolution when once passed, but it was generally agreed that a resolution could only be rescinded at the Annual General Meeting.

Before the conclusion of the meeting a hearty vote of thanks to our Chairman and Vice-Chairman was passed—they having conducted a very important and difficult meeting.

W. A. LOTT, *Hon. Sec.*,
103, Cheapside, E.C.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

I would direct the attention of all our members to the prize competition for contributions to the pages of "Bird Notes," the particulars of which are given below. The prizes will this year be given by two of the officers of the Club, The first prize will be of the value of not less than £1 1s. 0d. The nature of the prizes will be published later.

I should be glad if those of our members who are interested in Shows would look through the draft Show Classifications published in the January number of "Foreign Bird Notes," and communicate with me if they wish to propose any amendments to them. Any suggestions will, I am sure, be carefully considered by the Show Committee of the Council. It seems rather early to begin to make arrangements for the next Show season, but it is well to take time by the forelock.

The question of "Point Prizes" *versus* "Best Bird Specials" threatens to become a burning one. There is a great deal to be said on both sides. From the point of view of Show Committees, of course point prizes are to be preferred, because they tend to larger entries, and are less likely to lead to disputes. Judges also naturally prefer them, as they relieve them from a difficult and invidious task. But I believe the majority of exhibitors do not view them with favour. I would suggest that when we give more than one prize at a Show, our specials should be divided, some being given for points and some for the best bird, but that in the case of point prizes not more than a limited number of entries in each class should count for points, and that most of our prizes should continue to be given on the old system. I offer this suggestion, for what it is worth, for the consideration of both parties to the controversy, neither of whom is likely to convert the other.

HORATIO R. FILLMER,
Hon. Sec. FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
52, Ship Street, Brighton.

"BIRD NOTES" PRIZE COMPETITION.

At the end of the current year of the Club, each member shall, on the voting paper for the election of officers, vote for the member who has, in his opinion, during the year, contributed matter to "Bird Notes" on the subject of foreign birds of the greatest value and interest. The member receiving most votes shall gain the first prize, and the next the second prize. The Editor will of course not compete.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

Mr. R. COLTON, 244, Bramall Lane, Sheffield.
Messrs. R. HYDE & Co., Ltd., Harold Street, Camberwell, S.E.
Mr. HENRY FORTLAGE, Suffolk House, Weybridge.

NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED.

Mr. GEORGE BRADSHAW, Talbot Terrace, Lytham.
Proposed by Mr. HARRISON.
Miss COLLIER, 119, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead.
Proposed by Mr. STOREY.

The Foreign Bird Club.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH APRIL, 1902.

	£	s.	d.
61 Members' Subscriptions at 5/- ..	15	5	0
20 Members' Subcriptions at 2/6 .	2	10	0
Sale of Bird presented by a Member	0	2	6
Donation by Mr. H. K. Picard ..	1	1	0
Members' Advertisements, and Sale of "Foreign Bird Notes" and "Bird Notes" .. .. ..*	0	8	6
Trade Advertisements in "Foreign Bird Notes" and "Bird Notes"	2	8	6
Balance due to Treasurer	7	0	7
	£28	16	1

	£	s.	d.
Printing "Foreign Bird Notes" (5 issues) and half cost of printing "Bird Notes" (2 issues)	19	9	8
Stationery & miscellaneous printing	3	8	9
Postage	5	2	6
Engraving Medals	0	8	10
Advertisement in "Bazaar".. ..	0	5	10
Receipt Book	0	0	6
	£28	16	1

* The amount actually received was larger than this, but the stamps received in payment of many small sums were used for postage and no account kept.

HORATIO R. FILLMER,
Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,

JAMES STOREY,
Auditor of the F.B.C.

June 13th, 1902.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB MARKET.

The charge for advertisements is one penny for each bird named. Advertisements must be concisely worded, and clearly written on a separate sheet of paper, with the name and address of advertiser at the foot. The fee must in all cases be prepaid in stamps. The Hon. Sec. is authorised to decline Advertisements which he considers undesirable. Advertisements for the next issue must reach the Hon. Sec. not later than 15th July.

For Sale—Butler's "Foreign Finches in Captivity": original edition, with hand-coloured plates, half morocco, quite unsoiled, £5 5s. od.
Dr. SIMPSON, 2, Portland Road, Hove.

All acclimatized and out of doors for months—Egret, white and blue, very tame, full of beautiful plumes, rare; Chattering Lory, good talker; Purple-capped Lory, soon talk; Australian Shrike, splendid songster; Black-throated Laughing Thrush; Rosy Pastor, full plumage; Australian Crested Doves, Cockatiels, Zebra Finches, Spice Birds, Zebra Doves, Zebra Waxbills, Java Sparrows.

Grand outdoor straight wire aviary, cost £25, packs flat, all bolted together, price £15 or near offer.
GILL, Bexley Heath, Kent.

Wanted—Hen Blue Robin, and hen Shâma, must be acclimatized and from outdoor aviary.
GILL, Bexley Heath, Kent.

All bird lovers should read "Meating-off and Feeding Soft-bills": gives full information on the practical management of insectivorous birds in captivity, with notes on the different foods used, hand rearing, bird trapping, cages, etc. Price 6½d., post free, from the author—JOHN FROSTICK,
Ready shortly.] 18, Temperley Road, Balham, S.W.

☞ *All communications for "Bird Notes," in reference to the British Bird and Hybrid department should be addressed to the Hon. Sec. of the National British Bird and Mule Club, and all communications in reference to Foreign Birds to the Hon. Sec. of the Foreign Bird Club.*

A CHAFFINCH SINGING MATCH.

By Albert Rettich.

Some years ago, when writing for some foreign weeklies, I gave an account of a London Chaffinch singing match which met with some approval, and it has occurred to me that a translation might be of interest.

The natural song of the Chaffinch, in spite of its brevity and consequent reiteration, finds many admirers in all countries. Man, however, is constantly endeavouring to improve upon Nature, and although in some directions his efforts had better not have been made, yet it must be admitted that the song of many wild birds can be trained to please the human ear better than Nature's teaching.

Scarcely any two wild Chaffinches sing exactly the same strophe; caged nestlings are therefore trained to imitate the songs of two or three different old birds, neither of whose strain resembles the others. Clever youngsters learn to sing each of the several songs in turn, thus combining in one bird the vocal powers of them all. Such accomplished songsters as these are greatly appreciated by the amateur, but they are not used in singing matches, points in such competitions being awarded only for the frequency with which the bird repeats the one strophe of his natural song; and a champion "battler" at singing matches would by no means be a desirable cage bird, the objectionable re-iteration of only one short strophe having been encouraged to such an extent that a really "good match singer" will repeat the same "lay" some 250 times in a quarter-of-an-hour, which is the ordinary time limit of singing matches.

My foreign readers had the account of one match inflicted upon them, which runs somewhat as follows:

A match, arranged between "Costermonger Joe," of Bricklane, and "Long Bill," of Kingsland, is announced by the landlord of the "Cock and Bottle," of Shoreditch, to be brought off, say, on Saturday week. The fraternity know the combatants, "Shoreditch Bobby" and "the Kingsland Roarer," to be "stunners." All love a good match, especially when it becomes known that the winner will "stand" a gallon or two of beer to his friends who grace the meeting with their presence. The stakes, of a sovereign each, are already handed over to the genial host, and the time for the finches to be "on the nail" is fixed for eight p.m. precisely.

At last the long expected hour approaches. The bar is full, and the parlor nearly so. There are a few women enjoying their "quarterns," some carrying the inevitable baby; and a crowd of men, whose short black pipes are not likely to get cold again that evening. Many of them are loaded with one or two square parcels wrapped in colored neckkerchiefs, from which issue the songs of various birds—Linnets, Goldfinches, Mules, and Chaff-finches. Possibly further singing contests are now being fixed.

In the parlor all the gas-jets are lighted, but have some trouble to penetrate the fumes of tobacco, beer, etc. At last the contesting parties enter, each dressed in his Sunday best. The host conducts them through the welcoming crowd to two reserved tables, and attends personally to the wants of the honored guests. Then, with much noise and unnecessary reiteration, order is requested. Naturally the various songsters before mentioned, excited by the general hubbub, have been noisier than ever, and are now relegated to darkness in another room, to quiet them; only the two principals remain, closely covered up.

The two markers take their places, and as the clock strikes, the two cages are uncovered and hung up. The battlers look round for a moment, shake their plumage, whet their beaks, and one may take a grain of seed, but before it is cracked he hears a familiar call-note uttered by his opponent. Immediately he replies by a full strophe of his song, to which the other answers with fuller power. Before each marker is already a stroke of his chalk, and now the combat is fairly started. The chalks are busily employed to mark each properly delivered strophe, and keep pace with each other for a time, until Bobby takes it into his head to betake himself to his food-trough.

Meanwhile the Roarer continues steadily to pour out his heart and gains considerably in chalk marks. Costermonger Joe is getting very uneasy, and cannot understand this new trick of his much-renowned bird. Never before did he think of food while in the presence of an opponent. In order to draw his bird's attention upon himself and from the food-trough, he moves uneasily in his seat, and ventures at last to cough aloud.

It must be understood that, while a match is proceeding, no words of encouragement are allowed, no whistling or other means may be resorted to in order to recall a truant to his duty. Fair play is rigorously enforced.

At last Joe can stand it no longer; *accidentally* his beer-glass gets knocked over, and falls on the floor with much clatter. Bobby peers across the room to ascertain the cause of the unusual disturbance and catches sight of his master, and immediately he resumes his battle-cry. The ruse has succeeded, although there is a tumbler to pay for.

The chalk marks on the table are getting very numerous. The Roarer has challenged without a fault for thirteen minutes, and is forty points ahead of Bobby, but now he feels rather dry; he stops working, takes a drink of water and—hops to the food-box. But Kingsland Bill does not give his bird time to lose ground by feeding, in the same way that the other had done. In a moment he produces the brightly-coloured neckkerchief the Roarer knows so well, and pretends to wipe the perspiration from his anxious brow. His finch takes the hint and gallops through the remaining two minutes of the appointed fifteen in grand style. Bobby also had tried hard to make up for the precious time he had lost so wantonly, but could not recover all of it. Although credited with 252 marks, the Roarer beat him by 28 strokes.

Immediately, protest is entered by Costermonger Joe, fair play having been violated by the use of the colored cloth. Bill retorts by calling into question the fairness of the beer-glass episode. One word leads to another, the spectators mingle in the strife, expressions of opinion and sympathy with either party are getting more and more select, and a battle of another kind seems imminent. Joseph declares he has won, but Long William insists on "fighting" him for the stakes. This mode of settling the question being declined by Joe, the landlord is called upon to exercise his functions of umpire. With characteristic disinterestedness, he declares the whole affair null and void, and orders a fresh match to be sung for the same stakes that day week, and *on the same spot.*

The original publication of the above description of a Chaffinch singing match was with the object of illustrating some of the means resorted to to induce the birds to sing at their best. Ordinarily, birds are encouraged by whistling or speaking to them, but such highly-trained specimens as the two mentioned, can be recalled from any lapse of duty by certain signs or movements of their masters, of which those described above form but a small part.

[The article by Mr. Rettich, "A Chaffinch Singing Match," was published some five or six years ago in a contemporary monthly magazine. I remembered it quite well, and it occurred to me to approach Mr. Rettich with a view to re-publishing it in our Journal: feeling that it would appeal to British bird fanciers, who, in all probability, have never read it before. Mr. Rettich kindly consented to let me have it for the benefit of his fellow-members.—W. A. L.]

PARROTS AND PARRAKEETS.

By Dr. C. S. Simpson.

(Continued from page 176).

The Small Short-tailed Parrots. (*Agapornis*, *Psittacula*, *Loriculus*).—The last group of Short-tailed Parrots we have to consider are the small parrots called Lovebirds (*Agapornis*). and with them we may conveniently take the Passerine Parrot (*Psittacula*), and the Hanging Parrots (*Loriculus*), bearing in mind, however, that the latter, though frequently called Lovebirds, are wrongly so termed, and that the name should properly be restricted to the members of the genus *Agapornis*. Seven species of this genus are known, and they inhabit the Western and South-Western portions of Africa, Abyssinia, and Madagascar. Three species are regularly imported: the Grey-headed or Madagascar, the Red-faced, and the Peach-faced Lovebirds. All of these are easily kept on millet and canary seed. They are dull, listless, and not very interesting when kept in cages, but in an aviary they are active enough. The Grey-headed and Peach-faced will breed readily in confinement, but the Red-faced has not hitherto been known to do so in this country, nor I believe in Europe. Little appears to be known of the nesting habits of the Lovebirds in a state of nature, but in captivity they nest in hollow logs or cocoa nut husks, and the hen lines the cavity with pieces of straw and similar materials, which she conveys to the nest by inserting them among the feathers of her back. This habit is, as far as I am aware, confined to the true Lovebirds. The sexes of the Peach-faced Lovebird are similar, and this constitutes a practical difficulty in breeding them. The male Madagascar is distinguished from his mate at a glance by his grey head. The sexes are rather more difficult to distinguish in the Red-faced species, but the face has a decidedly more orange tint in the hen, and the under wing coverts, which are black in the male, are green in the hen.

THE PASSERINE PARROT (*Psittacula passerina*) is often called the Blue-winged Love-bird. It is a native of Brazil. It requires the same food as the Love-birds, and will breed in confinement.

THE HANGING PARROTS (*Loriculus*) form another group of tiny Parrots, varying from four to six inches in length. Twenty species are known, but only two are imported. They are found throughout India and Ceylon, Burmah, the Philippine Islands, the Malay Peninsula, and adjacent Islands. The two species kept in this country are the Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot (*L. galgulus*), and the Ceylonese (*L. indicus*). Their habits, at any rate in captivity, resemble the Lories, and they require somewhat similar treatment, but their anatomy, especially the absence of the brushy tongue, proves that this resemblance is but superficial, and that their true relationship is to the Love-birds. Their popular name indicates their habit of hanging head downwards, which is their favourite attitude when at rest.

These little Parrots are very beautiful and are more active and interesting in a cage than the Love-birds, but they are difficult to keep alive in this country, troublesome to feed, and very dirty in their habits. They are birds for the experienced aviarist, not for the beginner. The diet usually recommended for them in captivity is boiled rice sweetened with Demarara sugar. Those which I kept, however, did not thrive on this food, and I found that bread soaked in milk and squeezed out, sponge cake, and plenty of ripe banana, were more suitable. After a time they learned to eat canary seed, but would never take very much of it. They would never touch ants' eggs or other insect food. They did not appear to be very susceptible to cold.

The Blue-crowned Parrot is green, with a blue spot on the crown, a triangular gold-coloured mark in the interscapular region, and a scarlet patch on the throat. The scarlet patch is absent in the hen, and her colours are duller. The Ceylonese Hanging Parrot is also green; pileum and upper tail coverts scarlet; nape and interscapular region tinged with orange; cheeks and throat bluish. The female is like the male.

The true Parrots, which I have so far been describing, have heads which are large in proportion to the size of their bodies, and short square tails. The Parrakeets, which we are now about to consider, have heads which are smaller in proportion to the size of the bird, and long tails which are in most cases more or less pointed. The distinction, therefore, between Parrots and Parrakeets is not one of size, as is sometimes supposed, and, as a matter of fact, the smallest members of the family *Psittaci* are found among the tiny short-tailed Parrots of the East Indian Islands, while some of the largest members are found among the Macaws, which have long and pointed tails.

THE MACAWS (*Ara*) are found in Central and South America, one species being found in Cuba and one in Trinidad. They are mostly birds of great size and gorgeous plumage, but there are several species not larger than the Alexandrine Parrakeet. They live in pairs during the breeding season, each pair occupying a hollow tree in which the hen lays two white eggs. At other times they fly about in flocks, doing great damage to the crops. The birds which are imported are almost always specimens that have been taken from the nest and reared by hand, and are, therefore, tame and tractable. They are hardy, easily fed, and live to a great age in captivity. They learn to speak, usually in a harsh guttural voice, but are not particularly intelligent or affectionate. They may be fed on various kinds of grain, oats, maize, and hemp, with nuts and fruit. They are usually kept singly, chained by the leg to a stand, but a very large cage in which they can get more exercise is preferable. The largest of the Macaws, and probably of all the Parrots, is the gigantic Hyacinthine Macaw, which measures no less than three feet in length, and is of a cobalt blue colour, with the exception of the naked skin round the eye and at the base of the lower mandible, which is yellow. Unlike the other Macaws. which nest in hollow trees, according to the orthodox Parrot custom, the Hyacinthine Macaw is said to make a burrow in the banks of a stream, in which the hen deposits two eggs. They rear two broods each year. The Glaucous Macaw resembles the Hyacinthine in colour, but is smaller. Spix's Macaw is the smallest and the rarest of the blue Macaws. Nineteen species of Macaws are known altogether. Those which are usually kept by amateurs are the Red and Blue (*A. macao*), the Red and Yellow (*A. chloroptera*), the Blue and Yellow (*A. ararauna*), and the Military Macaw (*A. militaris*). Among the smaller species are Illigers (*A. maracana*), and the Noble Macaw (*A. nobilis*).

(To be Continued).

THE NUTHATCH.

(*Sitta cæsia*, Wolf.)

This interesting little bird, though common in most of the Southern Counties where old timber abounds, does not appear to be kept in captivity in very great numbers; at any rate, it is not often that one sees it upon the Show bench, and still less frequently is it rewarded with a first prize—which may perhaps account for exhibitors not troubling to keep specimens of this species.

As regards plumage, it is certainly an attractive little creature. The legs are short and very strong, which enables it to run either up or down a tree-trunk and to cling head downward whilst cracking a nut or killing a beetle, of which it is very fond. It is easily kept in good health and condition when fed upon the usual insectivorous diet, but I have little doubt it would thrive well upon monkey - nuts, sunflower seed, walnuts (cracked), and chestnuts. It appears to be fond of almost any kind of nut. One or two mealworms may be given occasionally, more as a luxury than a necessity. The Nuthatch I have is very fond of bathing, even in the depth of winter; and if mine is not an exception, they should, where possible, be given a plentiful supply of clean water.

As regards the cage—this should, in my opinion, not be an inch less than two feet long, by ten inches wide, and fifteen inches high; the back being covered with virgin cork. It should contain three perches. But I consider that a Nuthatch will do far better in an outdoor aviary, where he will be quite happy the whole year round. A few cocoa-nut husks should be hung up at the back near the top, and some virgin cork also fixed to the back of the aviary. I have had a very nice example of this species in my outdoor aviary since the end of 1897, and he always appears in the best of condition, and has won for me a few prizes, including one at the Crystal Palace Show of February, 1901.

There is one point much in favour of the Nuthatch and that is that it will not interfere with other occupants of the aviary, although I have found it impossible to keep more than one pair together: or even more than one specimen with safety, as I have learned to my regret. The sexes are as near as possible alike in plumage, and if a mistake were made and two males placed together, there would sure to be murder in a very short time.

S. Sandy.

"SILKWORMS AS BIRD FOOD."

A paper read at a meeting of the N. B. B. & M. C.

By John Frostick.

No doubt many of you have seen in "Bird Notes" the correspondence under the above heading, between the Countess Tomassi Baldelli and myself, referring to what the Countess termed "Dried Silkworms." I remembered to have seen for the first time, some twelve months ago, at Lord Wallscourt's house a quantity of silkworm chrysalides or pupæ from which the silken cocoon had been removed after the insect had first been killed in boiling water, and I came to the conclusion that these must be what the Countess meant by dried silkworms, especially as Lord Wallscourt had obtained his on the Continent. The last letter of the Countess confirms my supposition. A week or two ago Lord Wallscourt called upon me on his return from Turin, and through his kindness I am able to exhibit to you to-night a sample of this Italian insectivorous bird food, which I have no doubt is as new and interesting to you as it is to myself. The history of the silkworm moth (*Bombyx mori*) is an interesting one, upon which many pages could be written. The art of making the fabric we call silk from the fibres with which the larva enwraps itself before changing into the chrysalis, was probably first discovered by the Chinese at a very early period. In course of time the silkworm was imported into Europe, and I believe at the present time the cultivation of the mulberry tree, (the leaves of which form the natural food of the silkworm), and the rearing of the insect, is an important branch of commerce in Italy, Spain, and France, giving occupation to many thousands of persons. *Now* it seems most likely that the silkworm will be put to uses never thought of in England before, viz., as a food for birds, and as Mr. Jesse says in his "Gleanings": "Thus completing the adaptation of the insect in its different stages to the purposes it is destined to fulfil for our advantage, illustrating the care and kindness of the Almighty in thus making an apparently insignificant insect the means of so many important benefits to man." I understand that in Italy these silkworm chrysalides are to be had in any quantity at about 1d. per pound. Lord Wallscourt told me that when he first saw them heaped up on the stalls in the market places of Naples, Florence, and elsewhere, he thought they were raisins, which they much resemble in appearance. As a food for birds I have not yet used them myself, but those birds I have seen which had been largely fed on them seemed to be in a very happy, contented state of mind. Before being used they are crushed into a coarse powder, and in Italy take the place of ants' eggs. I myself look upon them as a very valuable addition to the foods we already have.

A FOREIGN AVICULTURIST'S BOOKSHELF.

By H. R. Fillmer.

I have been asked to write a series of short articles on "books for foreign-bird keepers"—and in the belief that such articles may be of assistance to some of our readers, I am about to comply with the request.

I shall write about the books only which are upon my own shelves. My collection of bird-books is considerable, but there are, of course, many excellent works upon our subject which I do not possess. The fact that I do not mention any particular work must not be regarded as an indication that I think badly of it, but merely that I do not own a copy.

"Foreign Cage Birds," by C. W. Gednev. This was published by "The Bazaar" Office, I believe in 1879, and has long been out of print. It appeared in the pages of "The Bazaar" newspaper prior to its publication in book form. It is in two volumes—the first and smaller volume treats of Parrots, and the second and larger one of other birds. The author would seem to have been a retired naval officer, who died, I believe, some years ago.

Mr. Gedney wrote in an interesting way with a considerable knowledge of his subject, and the book was undoubtedly, in its day, a useful one. One of its most aggravating faults is its want of arrangement—the Indigo Finch is placed next after the Orange-cheeked Waxbill, and the Bearded Tit is next to the Double-banded Finch. In every respect it is inferior to Mr. Wiener's work (only a very little later in date) and now that there are so many better books obtainable, I should not advise the aviculturist to invest in the purchase of "Gedney" with the intention of using it as a practical handbook to his hobby.

The author implies, rather than actually states, that he had succeeded in breeding a number of species which are now well known to very seldom breed successfully in this country. It is possible that the breeding successes were as numerous as he would apparently wish one to suppose—but one cannot help feeling that he draws heavily upon the faith of his readers. For instance, he tells us about the Grey Waxbill—"I have never been able to get *more than one or two young ones in a season* from these birds under the most favourable conditions." The Sydney Waxbill has "been bred by everyone who has tried the experiment." Magpie Mannikins "will raise an incredible number of young." Black-headed Mannikins "have been bred by myself and several persons of my acquaintance." The Combassou nests "readily in aviaries without artificial heat." These quotations are sufficient to show that Mr. Gedney's breeding experiences differed somewhat remarkably from those of aviculturists generally.

A good many questionable statements can be picked out of the book. We are told that Ribbon Finches "seldom rear their young in an outdoor aviary," and that Bronze Mannikins (which fly like sky rockets) are "feeble flyers."

It is not fair to judge, by the standard of the present day, a work on foreign cage birds written nearly a quarter of a century ago. We of to-day benefit by the experiences of our predecessors, but Mr. Gedney was a pioneer, and had to rely almost entirely on his own observation. If we bear this in mind, we shall not be unduly critical of his book.

(*To be Continued*).

CORRESPONDENCE.

BULLFINCHES NESTING IN CAPTIVITY.

SIR,—It may interest some readers of "Bird Notes" to hear I have a Bullfinch that has successfully reared a nest of young in my bird-room. These little birds were most unfortunately pulled out of the nest by (I believe) a Java Sparrow, who has now paid the extreme penalty of the law. The Bullfinch has built again and is sitting, and I am anxiously awaiting results. The murdered birds were nearly ready to leave the nest.

Have many instances been known of Bullfinches nesting in a bird-room? ISABELLA BELFORD WILSON.

SPICE BIRD—BENGALESE.

SIR,—It may interest some members of the Foreign Bird Club to hear that I have bred the above cross this season in my bird-room, the father being a Spice-bird and the mother a Bengalese: the young birds are brown, for the most part, but I see their coverts are beginning to have a faintly spotted appearance, similar to the breast of the Spice-bird; in one only the under part of the breast is white, with a white spot on the forehead and under the chin.

There are five of these interesting little birds: they are about three months old and are wonderfully strong and healthy. ISABELLA BELFORD WILSON.

OUTDOOR AVAIRIES—A SUGGESTION.

SIR,—It has long been recognised as a fact that foreign birds, even those supposed to be the most delicate, will bear a surprising amount of cold and exposure in outdoor aviaries, and will live very much longer under such conditions than when kept in the carefully regulated temperature of a bird-room. Aviculturists, I believe, have generally attributed this rather vaguely to the "more natural conditions of life," or to the "greater amount of exercise" thus obtained. In the light, however, of the very great success obtained by the open-air treatment of tuberculous diseases in the human subject, there can be, I think, no doubt that the true reason is to be found in the influence of fresh air and sunlight in preventing the development of consumption and other tuberculous diseases in birds. The conditions under which consumptive patients live in the open-air sanatoria are curiously similar to those of birds in aviaries: while sheltered as far as possible from cold winds, they are exposed to the open-air night and day in all weathers, and they live, eat, and sleep in rooms from which all windows have been removed. Under these conditions even advanced cases of consumption rapidly improve, and in many cases recover completely. For the benefit of tender-hearted (that is of all) aviculturists I may state that the constant exposure is not disagreeable : patients very soon learn to enjoy it, they never "catch cold."

On the other hand, I may point out that the conditions which obtain in bird-dealers shops appear to have been specially designed for the propagation of consumption : overcrowding, warmth, and want of cleanliness are the conditions most favourable to the spread of the tubercle bacillus, and are found to perfection, at least in some shops with which I am acquainted. C. S. Simpson.

THE CUCKOO.

Sir, — Your readers may be interested in the following account of observations of the habits of the Cuckoo, from last week's "Fishing Gazette."

"On June 2nd, 1899, Mr. Craig found a Meadow Pipit's nest with two Cuckoo's eggs and three Meadow Pipit's eggs in it. Mr. Craig thinks the Cuckoos eggs must have been laid by different birds, as they differed in colour, size, and shape. He broke one of the Pipit's eggs to ascertain how far incubation had advanced, so as to determine when to resume his observations. By June 8th both Cuckoos were hatched, and one Pipit's egg was found lying outside the nest, and the other was missing—Mr. Craig thinks the Cuckoos had thrown it out and the parents had carried it away.

"At first the two young Cuckoos got on all right, but soon the stronger got the weaker one on its back and tried its hardest to throw it out, the other clinging to the nest with its claws. After a bit they both became exhausted but presently they renewed the struggle, and on revisiting the nest on June 9th one of the Cookoos was found out of the nest. Before returning it he put in a young Pipit, and the young Cuckoo repeatedly got it on its back and backed with it to the side of the nest, but each time the Pipit got jambed near the top. The other Cuckoo was then returned and the struggle re-commenced, sometimes the birds put their beaks and heads against the opposite side of the nest to get more purchase, before climbing. Several times the top bird tumbled over the other's head, probably intentionally.

"On June 10th one Cuckoo was found out of the nest and, on being returned, was at once thrown out by the other; it was then returned, and the strong one removed for an hour to give the weak one time to recover. When the stronger bird was put back, the weaker one made several unsuccessful attempts to throw it out, and then got over on one side, endeavouring to keep the stronger bird from getting under it, and held on with its claws to the side of the nest. The nest was then bolstered up, to give the weak bird a chance to recover. On June 11th, the weak one had disappeared altogether.

"The Pipits paid no attention to the young Cuckoo, when outside the nest, even when it was sitting on the edge of it. Mr. Craig then put a young Yellow Bunting in beside the young Cuckoo, but it was promptly thrown out.

"Mr. Craig found another Cuckoo's egg in a nest containing four Meadow Pipit's eggs, and this time the young Cuckoo threw out all the Pipit's eggs before it was 24 hours old."

Whilst on the subject of Cuckoos, it has struck me as strange that the Koal, or Brain-fever Bird, of India, should lay in the House Crow's nest in India, and in the nest of the Mynah (the young of which are black) in one of the Islands of the Indian Archipelago. It looks as if it were doubtful whether the fact of the young of both sexes being black (the hen turning brown on arriving at maturity and the cock remaining black) were the cause of its preference for the nests of black birds, or whether instinct was the cause of its differing from most other birds by the young of both sexes taking after the cock in plumage. CHAS. CUSHNY.

NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD AND MULE CLUB.

Committee Meeting held at Headquarters, 3rd July, 1902.

Present : Mr. Robson (Chairman), Messrs. A. Plumbridge, Sandy, Merrifield, Frostick, Vale, Jones, C. Cooper, Maxwell, Tolhurst, Morgan, Dewhurst, and the Hon. Secretary.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Letters were read from Messrs. Lumsden, Jonas, Yallop, Wilkinson, Merrifield, and Hoyle. The Norwich Alliance All England Cage Bird Association stated that, while thanking the Club for its support and patronage, they were placed in a fix by the fact that they had secured the services of Mr. Hills as one of the Club's Judges, in accordance with our usual conditions. but Mr. Hills had since resigned. The Committee unanimously agreed that they could not alter the rules governing the grants of the Medals.

The application of the Cupar and District Ornithological Society was referred back to the Secretary for revision—the Classification being inadequate.

The application for support by the West London Fanciers' Association for their Show on the 12th and 13th November was granted. One Gold Medal as usual, and one Gold Medal for Members who had never won a Medal.

It was unanimously agreed to ask Mr. Urch to be a Committeeman.

Mr. Hoyle, of Bristol, submitted to the Committee a living specimen of a bird that he was unable to identify. The same was an ordinary "Snow Bunting."

An interlude was pleasantly employed by the members present enjoying the contents of a huge basket of strawberries presented by the Assistant Hon. Secretary (Mr. Plumbridge).

The actual urgent business of the Committee being finished, Mr. Frostick read a most interesting paper on

SILKWORMS AS BIRD FOOD.

A sample of the chrysalides or pupæ was handed round to those present, the general opinion being that if crushed and added to the foods now given it would be a very valuable change of diet.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Frostick for his researches into the subject and for bringing it before the Committee of the N. B. B. & M. C. Mr. Frostick, in acknowledging same, handed the paper to the Hon. Secretary for the Magazine.

Mr. Robson proposed that the Club should inaugurate rambles in the country for the purpose of observing wild bird life. He thought that our Club ought to be foremost in encouraging the observation of wild birds. His idea at once took practical shape, and it was decided to have an excursion to Leatherhead on July 19th. A dozen names were received of members willing to join in the ramble, and the Hon. Sec. undertook to make all the arrangements.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the meeting.

Will members kindly note that there will not be any "Notes" published in August, nor any meeting of the Committee until September.

W. A. LOTT, *Hon. Sec.*,
NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD & MULE CLUB,
103, Cheapside, London, E.C.

NOTES.

I sincerely regret that I omitted Mr. C. Cooper's name from the list of subscribers to Mr. Fulljames' testimonial.

I should be glad if Goldfinch fanciers would make a study of the white markings on the wings of their pets, and give me the results. I am told that the shape thereof is an indication of their origin—in the Britishers the markings lie transversely, and in the foreigners point downwards at times quite perpendicularly.

I hope members have not entirely forgotten our Sale and Exchange Column, which should be a good medium now for exchanging birds, or obtaining the various species desired. They have probably noticed the F. B. Market which is supported so well. This should be an incentive to the members of the N. B. B. & M. C. to avail themselves of our similar column.

Our Treasurer is now anxiously awaiting the arrival of many more subscriptions, which are now overdue. Members must seriously consider that we are this year incurring heavy expenses; our printers' bills have to be met, and many applications for our support will shortly be made by Show Committees desirous of our Gold and Silver Medals, and it will be the duty of my Committee to consider the advisablitity or not of sending the monthly Magazine to those who have not paid their subscriptions.

The competition for the medal to be awarded to the member introducing the greatest number of new members is not very keen. It is a very choice specimen of the medallists' art.

I hear some more whisperings of Pied and Albino Robins. Come, Mr. Turnber, let us know the facts?

I regret extremely the action of Messrs. Hills and Cook in resigning their membership of the Club, especially as we are now approaching the Show season.

I am sure all members of the Club will feel gratified by the election of Mr. Mays of Kingscliffe, and Mr. Dewar of Edinburgh, as official Judges of the Club, both being so well known as past masters in the art of exhibiting British birds. Messrs. Mays and Dewar were two of the original members of the British Bird Club under the Secretaryship of the late Dr. Bradburn.

One of our members has suggested that we should issue some coloured plates of various British birds and hybrids. The idea is good, and I feel sure that they would be highly appreciated, but unless some member with a rather deep pocket can supply the needful, I am afraid we shall have to wait a long time for that idea to become accomplished fact.

I am very anxious for some more copy for our Magazine. I notice some of our members are writing some good articles for publication in the fancy newspapers. I hope they will not forget to look at home first.

I have received some letters appreciative of the Magazine and of my work. I should be very much more encouraged if many more new members of the Club were proposed. We shall fall short of the 200 which I hoped we should secure by the end of the year, if more names are not sent in. The subscription of five shillings is small considering the value given to the members.

Let me repeat again that I, or any member of the Committee, will be pleased to advise any beginners as to the treatment of their birds, should they at any time be in a fix.

I should be glad of some notes on Mules, especially as to the breeding of the various crosses during the current season.

Any suggestions in reference to the already published Standards, excepting those for the Goldfinch and Bullfinch, will be duly considered before they are passed by the Committee.

All members will, I am sure, congratulate Mr. Houlton upon his convalescence. May his health be completely restored ere another Show season is upon us.

Let me ask our country members for some "Birdy Notes." They are highly appreciated by their fellow-members who are living in the land of bricks and mortar.

W. A. LOTT,
Hon. Sec. N. B. B. & M. C.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

The prizes in the competition for contributions to "Bird Notes" will this year be given jointly by Mr. Oakey and myself. The first prize will be of the value of one guinea, and the second of half a guinea. We have decided to leave the selection of the prizes to the recipients.

It has been decided to offer a prize of the value of half a guinea to the member who shall propose the largest number of new members during the year. In this case also the nature of the prize is to be determined by the winner.

The Show Committee of the Council have decided that all Medals of the Club shall henceforth be given for points. The details of the regulations in regard to the Medals are now under consideration, and the result will shortly be published.

The members have now had time to read and consider last year's Balance Sheet. The deficit of £7 is much to be regretted, but is scarcely a matter of surprise considering our heavy expenses last year, and our small membership. When we started "Foreign Bird Notes" we had only 20 members, and although our numbers rose to over 80 before the end of the year, the new members were not secured without a large expenditure on postage. I hope that we shall this year make both ends meet, but I fear that we can hardly expect, in addition, to make up this deficit out of the ordinary income. I commend Mr. Swan's ingenious scheme to the generosity of the members, and if there are any who prefer to contribute cash instead of birds, I shall be pleased to receive donations, however small.

I shall be very glad to receive suggestions from members as to the Club or "Bird Notes." Probably there are many ways in which the usefulness of both could be increased—if we only know of them.

Members will please note the new regulations for advertisements in our "Market."

During the month of August almost everyone is away from home, and the weather is not conducive to the writing of articles. It has therefore been decided not to issue "Bird Notes" for that month, and I shall consequently not have the pleasure of addressing the members again until September. I hope I shall be supplied with plenty of copy for our September issue, so that it may be a good number.

HORATIO R. FILLMER,
Hon. Sec. FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
52, Ship Street, Brighton.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

Mr. GEORGE BRADSHAW, Talbot Terrace, Lytham.
Miss COLLIER, 119, King Henry's Road, South Hampstead.
Mr. C. W. PERRYMAN, Bifrons, Farnborough, Hants.
Mr. A. E. BOOTHROYD, 27, Duke Street, Southport.
Rev. J. C. B. FLETCHER, Mundham Vicarage, Chichester.
Mr. RUSSELL HUMPHRYS, 28, Threadneedle Street, E.C.
Mr. T. H. NEWMAN, F.Z.S., 20, Montpelier Square, London, S.W.
Mr. H. W. BURGESS, High Street, Bushey, Herts.
Capt. G. RICE, Clayquhat, Blairgowrie, N.B.

NEW MEMBER PROPOSED.

Mr. F. YALLOP, 85, Prince of Wales Road. Norwich.
Proposed by the Hon. Sec.

OUR DEFICIT.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

It must be a matter of grave concern to all loyal members of the Club that the Balance Sheet, presented in the June issue, giving the accounts to the end of April last, shewed a deficit of over Seven Pounds. Our membership during the year covered by this figure was very small, and has not increased to any appreciable extent since. This being the case, it devolves upon ourselves to find some method whereby this adverse balance can be wiped off, and the membership largely increased, for it is principally on this latter that the welfare of the Club depends. There are several ways in which we can place the Club on a sound financial basis again. One is by a general subscription to a special fund for the purpose of liquidating the deficit. As this, however, is only another method of raising the yearly subscription it is not to be recommended.

An alternative method and one which, with the hearty co-operation of our members, I am willing to try and carry to a successful conclusion, is as follows. Most, indeed I think I may say *each*, of us could spare one bird, or perhaps a pair, from our aviaries. I propose that we offer one bird, or a pair, to the Club, and that they should be sold to the highest bidder, the money received going to wipe off our deficit. And this might be the *modus operandi*. Will each member, after reading these lines, and appreciating the object for which they are written, sit down and write to me offering whichever bird or birds he can spare? From these offers I should prepare a list giving the names of the species and their donors: this would be published in our next issue, and no doubt most of us would readily make offers for various specimens which might take our fancy. Any birds not sold through our Magazine would be advertised in the Fancy press. I should acknowledge receipt of all offers, and should communicate with the donors when their birds were sold, asking them to forward them to the purchasers. Another list would be prepared for a future issue, giving the donors' names and the amounts their offerings realised. All birds would be kept by their owners until sold, and would then be forwarded carriage paid, which would only amount to a few pence. All money actually received in payment of birds would be handed to the Treasurer, *without any deductions whatever.*

It is not, of course, expected that members will offer valuable birds: as long as they are healthy and fairly good representatives of their species, they will be appretiated, and the ultimate result will, I confidently hope, enable the Club to continue its good work, without having to face a deficit which must retard its progress. I shall be very pleased to inaugurate the good work, and will offer the Club a Crimson-crowned Weaver in full plumage and the best of health. Here I must leave the matter for the kindly consideration of each member, and hope that a hearty and willing response will be the result.

One word more and I must finish. Please do not let us think that the Club exists outside ourselves, because it is not so. We, each of us, are individual parts of a collective whole, and *it is only by those parts working loyally together towards a common good*, that we can hope to be that which I earnestly believe is the wish of us all, viz., an energetic and powerful organisation in the world of foreign birds. J. A. SWAN,

87, Lower Kennington Lane, S.E.

THE BIRD MARKET.

Only members of the N. B. B. & M. C. or the F. B. C. can advertise here. The charge is one penny for every four words, address included. All advertisements relating to British birds must be sent to Mr. Lott, and all relating to foreign birds to Mr. Fillmer. The Hon. Secretaries of the respective Clubs are authorised to decline advertisements which they consider unsuitable.

Advertisements for the next issue must be received by the 15th SEPTEMBER.

BRITISH BIRDS.

Wanted—Exhibition Linnet.
LOTT, 103, Cheapside, E.C.

A nest of four Linnet-Greenfinch hybrids for sale, £5; no lower offer entertained; particulars.
EMIL MEYER, Bexhill, Sussex.

FOREIGN BIRDS.

Wanted—Female Red-crested Cardinal; state price.
W. EARP, The Gardens, Park Pl., Henley-on-Thames.

Cow-bird, 8/6; pair Troupials, 18/6, odd hen 10/-; Common Mynah, 14/6; Blue Mountain Lorikeet, £4; Half-moon Parrakeet, perfect bird, 12/6; Javan Parrakeets, 9/- each; Yellow Budgerigars, 28/- pair; Zebra Doves, 7/6 pair: Pekin Robins, 5/- & 7/6 each; cock Shamahs, 33/- each; Violet Tanagers, 21/- each; perfect cock Green Singing Finches, 2/6 each; cock Nonpareils, 8/6, hens 13/- each; Indigoes, 7/6 each, hens 10/6; Red-crested Cardinals, 8/6; Dominican Cardinal, 12/6; Orange Cheeks, 4/- pair; Zebra Waxbills, 5/- pair; Lavender Finches, 5/6 pair; Grey Waxbills, 3/- pair; Cordon Bleus, 5/- pair; cock Black-headed Gouldian Finches, 12/6 each; Grey Singing Finches, 5/- pair; Whydahs, 5/- each; Ribbon Finches, 4/6 pair; Avadavats, 3/- pair; Zebra Finches, 5/- pair, odd cocks 3/- each; Bicheno's Finches, 25/- pair; Silverbills, 4/6 pair; Black-headed Mannikins, 2/- pair; Spice Finches, 3/6 pair; Java Sparrows, 3/6 pair; White Java Sparrows, 10/6 pair; Red-billed Weavers, 3/- each; Madagascar Weavers, 7/6; several other Weavers in colour; list of spare birds sent.
H. W. BURGESS, High Street, Bushey, Herts.

THE INDIGO BUNTING

(Cyanospiza cyanea).

Of the many birds imported into this country few, if indeed any, have greater claims to be considered desirable inmates of our aviaries than the Indigo Bunting. Charming alike in colors, in manner, in figure, and in song, it is small wonder that our little blue friend has gained for himself a deep affection in the hearts of those who have been fortunate enough to possess him. Who so bright and happy as he in the summer months, when, daintily clothed in light and dark blue, he sits on a favourite perch and gaily carols forth one of the sweetest little songs that issue out of birdy throats. Ah ! little blue bird, I miss that pretty song you used to sing me. In the early morning your soft low notes were often drowned by the louder and harsher voices of your companions ; but in the afternoon, when they were taking a siesta, from out of the stillness, two plaintive little notes would swell, and rippling on, like the silvery jingle of a tiny brook

> "You held enthralled the human heart,
> And led the mind to far away."

No other's song reminded me so strongly of the woods and fields. And now, as I write, there breaks in on my reflections the shrill discordant cries of some Weavers. What a difference !

The Indigo Buntings are sent to us from the United States, arriving about April and May of each year. They are brought over in small German canary cages—each cage generally containing one bird. I used to wonder at this, until a dealer told me that German Canaries are taken over to the States, and when sold the empty cages are filled with Indigos and Nonpareils (sometimes one of each being put into the same cage—this depends on the quantity of birds awaiting shipment, and the number of cages available)—and brought back to Europe. The Indigo Birds, as they are generally called, are caught just before the summer change in plumage is due, and when they reach our shores often only show a few of the brighter feathers peeping through the grayish winter dress; but within a month the bird is entirely blue, and the colors gradually deepen as the summer advances. On the approach of winter a complete moult takes place, sometimes leaving the bird nearly bare of feathers. This is the most critical time of the year for the Indigo Bunting, and it requires to be kept warm and out of all draughts. The food should also be more nourishing .and two or three mealworms may be given every day until the new feathers are well grown.

A bath once a week is quite sufficient at this time, and the water need not be more than half-an-inch in depth, otherwise the bird may get too wet and take a chill. When, however, the bird is in full plumage it enjoys a bath every day.

The question of food is, to a certain extent, a matter of opinion. Some, well-experienced people too, say that seed is all that is necessary, a few going to the extent of asserting that canary seed alone is quite sufficient. Others, and these I believe form a large majority, insist that insectivorous food, in some shape or form, is absolutely essential if the bird is to be kept alive and well. I have had several specimens of the Indigo Bunting and have tried both methods, and, as I believe it advisable and humane to follow a natural diet as far as possible, most certainly advise that the bird should always have access to insectivorous food, in addition to the seeds usually given. A striking instance, however, of the success of a seed diet came to my notice a few years ago. In one of the East End shops I was shown a "stick" of Indigos, which I was assured had been in the premises since the previous summer. (I have particular reasons for crediting the truth of this statement.) The birds had been kept right at the back of the shop, in a very dark corner, and generally had half-a-dozen "sticks" of Canaries standing on them, All the seven birds (which comprise one "stick") were in splendid condition and full color, one especially being pointed out to me as the best Indigo the dealer had ever seen, and it certainly was a magnificent creature. There it sat, in that wretched little canary cage, which was horribly dirty, glistening with color and looking more like a carved figure than a living bird. For nearly twelve months it had been there, and all the time had had nothing but canary seed and water!

As I have said before, I have good reasons to believe what was told me, otherwise it would have been almost impossible to credit it. Well, I bought the bird and kept it right through the summer in a separate cage, still adhering to the canary seed. It retained its beauty and tameness till its moult, after which I turned the bird into a large cage containing several others of various species. Here it had access to half-a-dozen different seeds and insectivorous food—but within a couple of months it was dead. It did not appear well one evening, and the next morning all that remained of it lay on the floor of the cage.

The mice had practically eaten the body, the skull being dragged some distance away. I was afraid they might have killed the bird, or even partly eaten it before it died, but the late Mr. Abrahams assured me that mice never touch a living bird, a small crumb of comfort, for which I was sincerely grateful. It was a melancholy end, and I took a fierce delight in exterminating that brood of vermin.

Some writers say that if Indigos are kept with Nonpareils, the latter will worry the Indigo "to its no small annoyance." I have never found it so—indeed my specimens always seemed to agree very well, each perhaps recognising in the other an inhabitant of the land of its birth. The same authority also says that an Indigo Bunting will chase a hen Canary if in the same cage from morning till night. Well, my birds were not so ungallant as that, for I never once saw an Indigo molest a hen Canary. These instances only show how individual birds may differ in character. It is hard to condemn a whole family through the ill-behaviour of certain members of it. Perhaps my birds were well brought up, though !

I have never tried to breed the species or to obtain the hybrid with a Canary. The possibility of this cross would seem to be at least doubtful, though Mr. Wiener appears to believe in it, as he tells us that " in the very rare cases where young cross-breeds resulted, their colors were disappointing."

The hen Indigo is a somewhat rare visitor to our shores. Probably the catchers think such sombre little brown things would have no sale, so do not trouble about them. I remember seeing a large flight cage containing a hundred or more of these hens, in a dealer's shop some three or four years ago, but since then have only come across odd specimens here and there. They have nothing to recommend them, unless one wants a pair, or wishes to breed the species.

J. A. SWAN.

THE TREE SPARROW.

From

A. Rettich's unpublished work on " Desirable Cage Birds."

Although a very close relation of the House Sparrow, this species is greatly to be preferred as a cage-bird : he is smaller, smarter, and handsomer in markings ; even his call-notes are less unpleasant to hear.

Both male and female are marked alike, and, what is very rare, the nestlings are the same except for a want of depth of colour. The parts which differ from the Common Sparrow are the head, neck, and throat, which in all Tree Sparrows, irrespective of age, are : frontlet, crown, and nape, a soft, velvety, reddish brown, bordered by a conspicuous white collar ; cheeks and ear coverings white, with a black spot pointed towards the gape ; long black streaks, resembling a moustache, extend to the breast, which is very light but not pure white in colour ; the body, tail, and wings are marked and coloured like those parts of his congener.

An unfledged family of Tree Sparrows all crowding together presents a pretty sight indeed, with their brown and white patches and black spots of colour.

These birds are comparatively rare in this country, but abroad I have seen quite a colony of them occupying the hollow branches of some old and decaying tree, in which they live, breed and rear their young, without any outward sign of their occupancy—very different from the habits of their relations, who share man's home so unceremoniously. It is amusing to see numbers of the prettier species diving head foremost into a small hole, and emerging from the branch in quite a distant part, having, in the transit, visited their nest and probably one or two others.

One or a pair of Tree Sparrows will be found a pleasing adjunct to the amateur's aviary.

A FOREIGN AVICULTURIST'S BOOKSHELF.

By H. R. Fillmer.

(Continued from page 204).

"*Foreign Cage Birds.*" *By August F. Wiener, F.Z.S.* This well known and justly valued work is the third and concluding portion of Cassell's "Canaries and Cage Birds," of which it forms nearly one fourth. It is illustrated by 24 coloured plates of foreign birds from drawings by W. Rutledge, executed in chromo-lithography of second-rate quality. The book is undated, but I gather that it was written in the latter part of 1879. So far as I am aware, it is the only important work on birds from Mr. Wiener's pen, but he still continues to write occasional articles on the subject.

No doubt Mr. Wiener was considerably indebted to the works of his friend the late Dr. Karl Russ—and indeed he freely acknowledges this. But this fact in no way detracts from the value of "Foreign Cage Birds" as an original work. Clearly and attractively written, with the subject carefully and scientifically arranged, it is difficult to estimate the book too highly. It was for many years far and away the best work on the subject in the English language—and although now somewhat out of date, and superseded as to certain groups of birds by later and more exhaustive works, it still remains one of the most reliable and practical of "all round" guides.

Mr. Wiener begins with an excellent chapter on "General Management of Foreign Birds." We have, of course, learnt a good deal in the last 23 years, and if he were to re-write the chapter he would doubtless alter it considerably—nevertheless beginners will be the better for reading it carefully. He then proceeds to treat of various species *seriatim*—adopting the classification and nomenclature of the Zoological Society of London, and not that of the British Museum which is now generally preferred by aviculturists.

The space devoted to soft-food birds is certainly meagre. The Blue Robin, the Mocking Bird, the Pekin Robin, the Chinese Jay Thrush, six species of Bulbuls, and three Tanagers, exhaust the list. I am forgetting, however, that there is also a chapter on Starlings, wherein some ten species are described—this chapter being, oddly enough, separated from those on the other soft bills by the "small seed eaters."

These "small seed-eaters" were certainly Mr. Wiener's *forte*. All the species commonly imported 20 years ago are fully and adequately dealt with, as well as some birds which were then, and still are, decidedly rare.

I imagine that Mr. Wiener was pressed for space, and had to unduly compress his account of the Parrots and Parrakeets—at any rate, this important family are dismissed in 19 pages. Some 40 species are touched upon, but this is certainly the weakest part of the book.

A VISIT TO A LONDON FANCIER.

Thinking I might see something that would be of interest I paid our fellow member, Mr. J. Dewhurst, of Fulham, a visit a short time back, and must confess I was more than repaid with what I saw. First of all he showed me a good stock of small soft-bills, ranging from the Long-tailed Tit to the Wheatear, which latter Mr. Dewhurst has succeeded in keeping in fine condition in spite of the last lengthy winter. He had some fine Blackcaps looking very fit, also several Nightingales which with ordinary luck might be expected to give a good account of themselves on some of the Show benches during the coming season. There were five Swallows which appeared quite at home and tame. These are very pretty little birds, but I think they are seen at their best when in the open. There were several Whitethroats and a pair of Redstarts. The hen Redstart was certainly in good condition, and my host surprised me by saying he had then had her about a fortnight, and she had not tasted a mealworm but had "meated" herself off on ordinary soft food. I might here mention that Mr. Dewhurst does not believe in mealworms except for the first few days of a bird's cage life.

The larger of his insectivorous birds included his well known Greater Spotted Woodpecker, which, I believe, he has kept for close on five years, and his Cinnamon Blackbird, also some fine Fieldfares, Redwings, Thrushes, and Blackbirds, etc. But his trump card was to come in the shape of five young Kingfishers he had succeeded in rearing from the nest, and very fine they looked—perfect in feather and very tame. These Mr. Dewhurst was very proud of and rightly so, for they were quite a picture to look at, and I am sure they will be a centre of interest if he has the good luck to get them through the moult, which, I am told, is the difficulty others have experienced who have tried to rear these birds. The Kingfishers have decidedly large appetites, for Mr. Dewhurst produced the skeleton of a fresh haddock which must have weighed at least 1½lbs., and this, together with a lemon sole, he informed me had been their day's allowance. Very few live fish had been given. I am sure our fellow members will join me in wishing Mr. Dewhurst every success with the Kingfishers.

My host has not yet succeeded in breeding Nightingales in captivity, but has had a fair number of eggs from various Britishers, among which may be named the Tree Pipit and the Chaffinch, and a cross between two of perhaps the commonest, viz., cock Greenfinch and hen Sparrow. He also bred some young Thrushes in his aviary, and very nice birds they look.

His muling operations had not been a marked success, but he informed me that he had had young from Linnet-Bullfinch, Goldfinch-Bullfinch, Siskin-Canary, and Linnet-Canary. S. A. SANDY.

BITS FROM A BIRD ROOM.

In responding to the Editor's request for a line or two on breeding operations, I must say that I am afraid my results this season, so far, are not of great importance to the readers of "Bird Notes."

Certainly those who know, or think they know, all there is to be learnt in this world of ours relative to hybrid breeding, can skip this short paper and lose nothing by so doing—but there may be some who are less versed in the joys and sorrows of hybrid breeding, and to whom these few lines may be interesting.

Firstly, I breed a few Canaries to keep up the stock—not from young hens mind, but from hens that I have already proved to be worth breeding from for the production of light mules—such as are known to throw a decent mule.

The young Sib hens I have, I keep back as long as possible—then get a nest or two of mules to test their ability; and further, I have an idea that it is from such young, *strong* hens that we shall get our best light mule; or at anyrate, I have never had a better mule, if as good, from second or third season hens, as I have from *first season* birds.

Never having succeeded in breeding from two British birds until last season, I was, after five or six years of non-success, getting careless if I sat the egg, from Britishers or not. But having at last got hybrids from them my interest became much stronger in this section of the fancy, and this season I am again trying a few crosses.

I put up four Bully hens, two of them with Greenfinch cocks, and the others with a Linnet and a Goldfinch respectively—all have laid; one of pair Greenie-Bully are very fond of fresh eggs, and they generally sample their own before giving me a chance. The other Greenie and Bully have laid their first clutch of five which are now under a Canary hen.

The Goldie and Bully are a model pair, both build and sit well, and had I left them their eggs, probably would have reared the young. There have been five young hatched from the pair but all have gone home.

The Linnet and Bully are also a most agreeable couple: she laid six eggs first, and three hatched—none of which are alive to-day. Then she laid another six—with three fertile— two of which hatched, and are now three weeks old and doing well.

A Goldie and Greenfinch are, I think, the silliest pair I ever saw. They build and destroy nest after nest, and a lunatic asylum would be the most suitable place for them—but they are improving, for I have the first egg from the hen to-day.

Never having had great trouble with non-feeding hens, my idea was to let my muling hens and Bully hens sit as near the same time as possible, and then when I found any of the latter eggs fertile, I could transfer them to a Canary hen, or after they had hatched as seemed best. Of course, this seemed workable to me; and I intended, when the Canary had hatched, to destroy what mules I thought would be least likely to turn out good ones, and introduce any young hybrid I might require to be reared. But you know what a great Scot told us about "The best laid schemes," etc., etc.

Only in one case has this worked satisfactorily; then, the Bully's eggs were due to chip the same day as one of my muling hens, and I saw one of the young mules was very promising, so I took out three I considered would be variegated and put in two young Linnets—Bully Hybrids; it worked splendidly and they are doing for themselves now — a four-pointed mule and two hybrids, all cocks, a nest not to be sneezed at surely.

The other cases did not hit it off nicely—I think the young were hatched too quickly, before the Canaries had sat long enough to get over their broodiness—any way, they would not rear them, although they had previously fed their young Canaries well.

I am inclined to think the Bully hen has most to do with the fertility of her eggs, as one Bully hen I have had fertile eggs last year from a Goldfinch, and two different Linnets. Now she is sitting on eggs which will, if they are good, bring forth the, to some, impossible "Canary and Bullfinch mule." She and the Canary are the most promising pair imaginable, both share the sitting, and hopes run high. The Canary is the father of some "Canary-Bullies" already, both last year and the year previous.

I find the young hybrids thrive better if some seeds of the shepherd's purse are mixed with the egg food, than if there is no change from rape and maw seeds being mixed therewith.

I have secured a couple of very fine hybrids from the "Greenfinch and Bullfinch" bred by Mr. Chapple, of Stoke, from birds I gave him in the spring. These are now six weeks old, and with luck should do a little winning later on. One thing is very patent, I must, another year, provide feeders if I am to rear hybrids nicely.

R. BROWNING.

AVIARY NOTES.

If I were asked to name the most interesting birds in my garden aviary at the present time, I should unhesitatingly mention my Long-tailed Grassfinches, a healthy and lively pair of Doublebands, my Passerine Doves and a pair of Indian Rain Quails.

The Long-tailed are in excellent form, and when not engaged in other birds' business, pass most of their time carrying grass, feathers, &c., into a nest-box of the cigar box pattern, and from all appearances seem very much in earnest. In fact, I shall be disappointed if the nest-box selected this time fails to give satisfaction, as it is about the third or fourth house they have chosen and furnished, and all to no purpose.

The short song of this bird I consider most pleasing, and his love dance just a little ludicrous—but what amuses me most is the extreme audacity of Mr. Longtail. If he sets his mind on having a particular bit of grass in the ear, or a feast of spray millet, he takes good care to have what he wants—though at the same time I must admit that his mate is almost always invited to share any tit-bit there may be. I find that grass in the ear is much relished by these birds, also the seeds or heads of chickweed, of which my birds have an abundance.

The Doublebands or Bicheno Finches are most attractive, and so very tame. My pair have been out all the summer, and look just at present as though ache or pain had never troubled them. Indeed, I am half tempted to let them try the winter outside: they could have plenty of exercise, as the aviary is not a small one (ground space about 130 square feet), and in the warmest spots I always arrange a few cosy boxes in which the foreign birds sleep at night (with the exception of a Grey Singing Finch and a young Saffron Finch, and these perch along with the Britishers).

The Bichenos during the early summer (?) built an open nest in a fir tree, and looked so comfortable and pretty squatting there with their miniature Owl-like heads just in view. Had the weather been anything like I should have predicted a very happy time for them. But—but—the constant rain was too upsetting, and they deserted their home for a more substantial one, and are now enjoying the comforts of a sensible roof over their heads.

I feel sure that when acclimatised these Finches would do well in an open-air aviary, as they seem to require a certain amount of live insect food. Perhaps the good health my birds have always enjoyed is due to their frequent treats of small insects given on the leaves just as I come across them in the garden, and of course the birds themselves meet with many such delicacies during the summer months.

I do not anticipate much joy from the Quails, though they are exceedingly pretty and are always greatly admired. Unfortunately my aviary is minus the long grass it once possessed (a *sine quâ non* if young Quails are to be reared, so I am told) and even if planted again the many little inhabitants would quickly destroy it. So I suppose I must be content with my present pair, and look forward to something more satisfactory at a future date.

The Doves are rather apathetic, and perch most of the day on a ladder apart from their companions, and apparently indifferent to the wars and strifes around them. They may improve as time goes on—I am hoping so. L. DUTTON.

REVIEW.

"Meating Off" and Feeding Soft-bills. By John Frostick.

This valuable paper, which was published in our pages as a serial, has now been re-printed as a sixpenny pamphlet, and doubtless many of our readers will be glad to have it in that form for readier reference. For us to praise a work which has appeared in "Bird Notes" would partake too much of the nature of that "self praise" which is proverbaily "no recommendation." We will therefore merely express the hope that Mr. Frostick will continue to draw upon his store of knowledge for the benefit of our readers.

We understand that Mr. Frostick purposely refrained from mentioning any special advertised food for birds, and we appreciate his reasons. But this restriction has, we think, compelled him to omit some common objects of the bird room larder which could not be dispensed with without serious inconvenience. Spratt's "Crissell" is a case in point. This the writer has found invaluable. "Colifichet" is another omission, not attributable to the same motive. This is better than ordinary bread, being less fattening and more digestible. We have found a mixture of ants' eggs, crissel, colifichet, and preserved yolk of egg, an excellent food for soft-bills—better for most species than plain ants' eggs—and certainly much cheaper. H. R. F.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ILL-FATED ALBINOS.

Sir,—The old saying that a little knowledge is dangerous has been again fully justified in connection with bird life—which the following little incident will show.

Recently two boys called upon a friend of mine, and producing a couple of young birds, asked "What birds are these?" My friend looked at them, and put on his considering cap—they were like young Robins, he thought, one was pure white and the other a creamy white: they were small insectivorous birds he was sure, but what were they? "Did you see any more about?" he asked. "Yes," said the boys, "two others like young Robins, speckled with white: the four flew out of the nest and we caught these two." "I've got it," said my friend, "they *are* young Robins." Before he could ask any more questions the boys had vanished up the street. The next day he saw one of the boys again, and asked what had become of the birds. "Dead," said the boy. And this was the untimely end of what might, in the hands of an experienced fancier, have been rare and interesting exhibits at the "Glass-house."

Does any other member know of a similar occurrence in connection with albinos? F. TURNBER.

NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD AND MULE CLUB.

Committee Meeting held at Headquarters, 4th September, 1902.

Present: Mr. Robson (Chairman), Mr. Pollard (Vice-Chairman), Messrs. Frostick, Vale, Jones, Tolhurst, C. Cooper, Maxwell, Urch, Morgan, Dewhurst, Sandy, and the Hon. Secretary.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Letters were read from Messrs. Browning, Colton, Pyman, Urch, Tyson, Egerton, Bell, Steele, Tanner, Lumsden, Wilkinson, Bancroft, Rudd, Godwin, Lythgoe.

Application for support and patronage was made on behalf of the Barnsley and District Ornithological Society: it was agreed to grant one Silver Medal.

Application of Warrington and District Ornithological Society.—A good classification being given, it was proposed by Mr. Frostick, and seconded by Mr. Jones, that we give one Gold Medal.—Carried.

The application of the Whitehaven Society was granted as last year, upon the usual conditions.

The application of the Manchester and Northern Counties Society was next before Committee, and it was agreed that if they would provide 14 Classes, the Club would grant them an extra Gold Medal to be awarded to a member who had never won a Medal of the Club, otherwise one Gold Medal as last year.

A special application on behalf of the London Cage Bird Association was made, and in view of its being the last show at the Royal Aquarium, it was thought that the occasion should be one well worth remembering. As there is to be increased classification it was decided to grant them two Gold and two Silver Medals, as last year, and one Gold for the Member who has never won a Medal of the Club. Proposed by Mr. Pollard and seconded by Mr. Vale, and carried.

The application of the Bolton and District Cage Bird Society was not entertained, they not having complied with the conditions.

The application of the Pendleton and Salford Ornithological Society was also not entertained, they not having complied with the conditions.

The following ladies and gentlemen were elected Members of the Club:—Mrs. C. Atkins, proposed by Mr. Rettich, seconded by Mr. Pollard; Mr. W. C. Cunningham, proposed by Mr. Browning, seconded by Mr. Jones; Mr. Pyman, proposed by the Hon. Secretary, seconded by Mr. Vale; Mr. C. Colton, proposed by Mr. Browning, seconded by Mr. Maxwell.

Mr. Frostick introduced the subject (of which he had given previous notice) of the compilation of a number of British bird classes in connection with the list of hybrids by Mr. Vale, for the guidance of Show Secretaries. His classification was read and passed, and ordered to be printed, with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Frostick and Mr. Vale for the time and labour spent in working them out.

Mr. Tolhurst introduced a subject which we are all more or less interested in, and thought that a petition should be presented to the various Railway Companies for the better conveyance and care of exhibitors' birds when in transit to Shows. Several members testifying to the negligence displayed, Mr. Tolhurst agreed to put the matter formally before the Club at another meeting.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman was passed.

W. A. LOTT, *Hon. Sec.*,
NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD & MULE CLUB,
103, Cheapside, London, E.C.

SHOW CLASSIFICATION FOR BRITISH BIRDS.

For Six Classes.

1. Goldfinch or Bullfinch.
2. Siskin, Redpoll, or Twite.
3. Linnet.
4. All other species of seed-eating birds not larger than and including the Hawfinch.
5. All species of insectivorous birds not larger than and including the Skylark.
6. All other species of British birds (Hawks, Owls, and Ravens excluded).

For Seven Classes.

1, 2, 3, and 4 as above.

5. All species of Larks or Pipits.
6. All other species of insectivorous birds not larger than and including the Wheatear.
7. All other species of British birds (Hawks, Owls, and Ravens excluded).

For Eight Classes.

As above, with exception of Goldfinch and Bullfinch having separate classes.

For Nine Classes.

1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 as above.

6. Song-Thrush, Blackbird, or Starling,
7. All species of Larks or Pipits.
8. All other species of insectivorous birds not larger than and including the Wheatear.
9. All other species of British birds (Hawks, Owls, and Ravens excluded).

For Ten Classes.

As above, with separate class added for Chaffinch, to follow after Linnet.

For Eleven Classes.

As above with separate classes added for Greenfinch.

For Twelve Classes.

As above, with class added for Pied, Albino, or other rare-feathered specimen of British bird, not being a hybrid.

For THIRTEEN CLASSES.

1. Greenfinch.
2. Goldfinch.
3. Siskin, Redpoll, or Twite.
4. Chaffinch.
5. Linnet.
6. Bullfinch.
7. All other species of seed-eating birds not larger than and including the Hawfinch.
8. Song-Thrush, Blackbird, or Starling.
9. All species of Larks or Pipits.
10. Blackcap or Nightingale.
11. All other species of insectivorous birds not larger than and including the Wheatear.
12. Pied, Albino, or rare-feathered specimen of British birds not being a hybrid.
13. All other species of British birds (Hawks, Owls, and Ravens excluded).

For more extended classification up to the following, which I give as a perfect example, add separate classes for the more popular birds which show a reasonable chance of filling a class. The special attention of Show Secretaries is called to the word *species*, which should in all cases be used instead of the old-fashioned and improper word *variety*, as used in relation to the classification of British birds.

BRITISH BIRDS (Singly).

As per list of the N. B. B. & M. C.

CLASS

1. Greenfinch.
2. Hawfinch.
3. Goldfinch.
4. Siskin.
5. Chaffinch.
6. Bramblefinch.
7. Linnet.
8. Lesser Redpoll or Twite.
9. Bullfinch.
10. Yellow Bunting.

11. All other species of Finches, Buntings, or Grosbeaks, resident or migratory.
12. Song-Thrush.
13. Blackbird.
14. Robin.
15. Skylark.
16. All other species of Lark or Pipit, resident or migratory.
17. Starling.
18. Chough, Jay, Magpie, or Jackdaw.
19. Pied, Albino, or rare-feathered specimen of British bird, not being a hybrid.
20. All other species of resident insectivorous birds not larger than and including the Grey Wagtail.
21. All other species of resident insectivorous birds larger than the Grey Wagtail.
22. Blackcap or Nightingale.
23. All other species of migratory insectivorous birds not larger than and including the Wheatear.
24. All other species of migratory insectivorous birds larger than the Wheatear.

CONTINENTAL BIRDS.

25. All species of European birds not included in the National British Bird and Mule Club list.

(Hawks, Owls, and Ravens excluded).

CLASSIFICATION OF HYBRIDS.

For Six Classes of British birds, as per Mr. Frostick's list, or less.

I. Any variety light Canary hybrid.
II. ,, dark ,,
III. Any other variety hybrid.

For Seven or Eight Classes.

I. Any variety light Goldfinch & Canary hybrid.
II. ,, dark , ,,
III. Any other variety of Canary hybrid.
IV. Any variety between two British birds.

For Nine Classes.

I. Clear or lightly-marked Canary hybrid.
II. Dark Goldfinch and Canary hybrid, yellow or buff.
III. Any other variety Canary hybrid dark.
IV. ,, ,, ,, heavily variegated.
V. ,, ,, between two British birds.

For Ten Classes.

I. Clear or lightly-marked Canary hybrid.
II. Evenly-marked Goldfinch and Canary hybrid.
III. Dark yellow or buff Goldfinch and Canary hybrid.
IV. Any other variety Canary hybrid, dark.
V. Any variety Canary hybrid, heavily variegated.
VI. Any variety between two British birds.

For Eleven Classes.

I. Clear or evenly-marked Canary hybrid.
II. Uneven yellow Goldfinch and Canary hybrid.
III. Uneven buff ,, ,, ,,
IV. Any variety Canary hybrid, heavily variegated.
V. Dark yellow or buff Goldfinch and Canary.
VI. Dark Linnet and Canary hybrid, yellow or buff.
VII. Dark Siskin, Twite, or Redpoll and Canary hybrid.
VIII. Any other variety Canary hybrid, dark.
IX. Any variety between two British birds.

For Twelve Classes.

Same as Eleven, with a class added for light Linnet hybrids.

For Thirteen Classes.

Same as Twelve, with two classes for the cross between two British birds, one for any variety Bullfinch *cross* and the other for any other—Bullfinch excepted.

For Fourteen Classes.

I. Clear Goldfinch and Canary hybrid.
II. Evenly marked Goldfinch and Canary.
III. Uneven yellow ditto.
IV. Uneven buff ditto.
V. Heavily variegated—any variety Canary hybrid.

VI. Dark yellow Goldfinch and Canary.
VII Dark Buff ,, ,, ,,
VIII. Dark Linnet and Canary.
IX. Dark Siskin, Redpoll, or Twite and Canary.
X. A.O.V. Canary hybrid.
XI. Any variety Bullfinch hybrid.
XII. Any other variety—Bullfinch cross excepted.

P. S.—As the word *mule* and *hybrid* are synonymous, the former being generally used in reference to the cross between the horse and donkey, it is hoped the latter will always be adopted with reference to birds.

The Club have decided not to recognise a two-pointed specimen as such, but allow it to compete in the class for ticked or lightly-marked birds. W. H. VALE.

The following are the list of Medals and Shows where they are to be competed for up to last Meeting of the Committee :—

Oct. 31st and 1st Nov,, Man. and Northern Counties—one Gold.

Nov. 8th., Warrington and Dis. O.S.—one Gold.

Nov. 12th and 13th, South W. London—two Gold Medals. One for Members who have never won a Medal of the Club.

Barnsley and Dis. O.S., no date—one Silver.

Nov. 18, 19, and 20, L.C.B.A.—two Gold and two Silver Medals, and a Gold Medal for Members who have never won a Medal of the Club.

Dec. 5th and 6th—two Gold Medals as before.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

REGULATIONS AS TO THE CLUB MEDALS MADE BY THE SHOW COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL.

1. All Medals shall be given for POINTS, which are to be counted as follows :—C. 1, H.C. 2, and one number higher for each higher award.
2. Extra Prizes shall count for Points, and *all* entries compete.

3. Subject to special resolution of the Committee to the contrary, when two Medals are given at the same Show, the second shall be for next highest points to the winner of the first.
4. Members exhibiting at Shows where the Club Medals are given, are asked to place the initials "F.B.C." after *each* entry in the entry form and to request the Secretary to insert the same in the Show Catalogue.
5. No member shall win more than TWO Medals in one season, one silver and one bronze, or more than one Medal at the same Show.
6. No Medal shall be given at any Show unless the Classification and the name of the Judge be first submitted to, and approved by, the Committee. Preference shall be given to Shows at which the Club's Classification is adopted and one of the Club's Judges appointed.
7. No Medal shall be given at any show where less than THREE Classes for Foreign Birds are provided and no Silver Medal where less than SIX Classes.
8. In the case of a tie the exhibitor taking most money in prizes shall win, and if there still be a tie the exhibitor with most entries shall win.

The Club classification for 12 Classes has been slightly altered by the Committee, and is therefore printed below in its revised form. For the other classifications see "Foreign Bird Notes," No. 4.

TWELVE CLASSES.—E.

1. Budgerigars and all species of Love-birds and Hanging Parrots.
2. All species of Parrakeets (other than Budgerigars, and including Kings and all Broadtails) and Lorikeets.
3. Grey Parrots and all species of Amazons.
4. All species of Short-tailed Parrots not comprised in the above, Cockatoos, Macaws, and Lories.

5. All species of Doves and Quails.
6. All species of Whydahs, Weavers, and Combasous.*
7. Common and Green Avadavats; St. Helena, Grey, Orange-cheeked, and Golden-breasted (or Zebra) Waxbills; Parson, Diamond, Ribbon and Zebra Finches; Silverbills; Spice-birds; Grey Java Sparrows; Black-headed, White-headed, and Bronze Mannikins; Common, Orange, and Napoleon Weavers; and Common Combasous.
8. All species of Waxbills, Grassfinches, and Mannikins not comprised in the above (including the Parrot Finch, Pin-tailed Nonpareil, Gouldian Finch, Red-headed Finch, Bicheno's Finch, and Cherry Finch).
9. All species of Grosbeaks, True Finches, and Buntings (including the Cuba Finches and the Cardinals).
10 All species of Tanagers, Sugar-birds and Zosterops.
11. All species of Crows, Pies, Starlings, Mynahs, Hangnests, Jays and Troupials.
12. All species of Insectivorous and Fruiteating Birds not comprised in the above.

I want the members to know of and appreciate the valuable services rendered to the Club by our indefatigable Hon. Sec. of the Show Committee, Mr. Swan. He has relieved me of a large amount of correspondence, and has displayed great energy and judgment in furthering the interests of the Club. Also, he provided at his own expense the very tasteful card leaflets recently sent to the members, and paid the cost of 200 extra copies of "Bird Notes" for distribution among persons who were thought likely to join the Club.

It seems as if the members were all afraid of winning those prizes for the best contributions to "Bird Notes"—this is the explanation of the unwonted scarcity of "matter" which first occurred to me, but on further reflection I am disposed to hope that the holidays have more to do with it.

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* At Shows held after Christmas, it would be well to substitute for this Class one for Gouldian Finches, Parrot Finches, and Pintailed Nonpareils, and to make the consequent alterations in the other classes.

That mechanical genius, our friend Mr. Arthur Jones, has been at it again. His bird "fountain" is too well known to require any recommendation, and now he has brought out an inexpensive metal stand, wherewith to hang the fountain against the wires of the cage or aviary. This is a real improvement, and adds considerably to the value of the fountain, as the raised position prevents the water from being fouled by sand and seed husks.

HORATIO R. FILLMER,
Hon. Sec. FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
52, Ship Street, Brighton.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

Mr. F. J. YALLOP, 85, Prince of Wales Road, Norwich.
Mr. L. W. HORTON, Lingfield, Bescot, near Walsall.
Mr. W. E. D. SCOTT, 341, Nassau Street, Princetown, New Jersey, U.S.A.

NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED.

Mr. THOMAS KEMPING THORNBORROW, 51, Swinton Street, King's Cross, London.
Proposed by Mr. BETTS.

Mr. G. E. HARRISON, Radford House, Stone, Staffs.
Proposed by Mrs. DUTTON.

Miss E. M. HOPKINSON, 45, Sussex Square, Brighton.
Proposed by Dr. HOPKINSON.

Mrs. D. W. CURTIS. Market Place, Stowmarket.
Proposed by Mr. BOND.

Miss M. E. BAKER, Granite House, Mount Sorrell, Loughborough.
Proposed by Mr. SWAN.

Mr. E. J. TIGHE, Junr., Merville, Sligo.
Mr. JOHN KEATING, Castle Street, Sligo
Proposed by Mr. PHILIP.

OUR DEFICIT.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The following birds have been offered to the Club in response to my appeal. To those members who so kindly and thoughtfully responded the sincere thanks of the Club are due.

I hope every member will make an offer for one or more of the birds. As stated before, each bird will be sold to the highest bidder, and the money received will help to reduce the Club's Deficit.

The right is reserved of withdrawing any bird if no adequate offer is made for it, and the offers will be accepted on the distinct understanding that the birds are not purchased with the intention of selling them again.

I shall be very pleased to receive further offers of birds, or the same my be sent to Mr. Fillmer.

J. A. SWAN,
87, Lower Kennington Lane, S.E.

Offers.	*Presented by*
Red-billed Weavers (fine pair)	Mr. A. Philip.
Singing Canary and Cage.	Mr. J. Storey.
Singing Canary (German-Border cross)	Mr. H. R. Fillmer.
Red-vented Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*)	Mr. F. C. Thorpe.
Crimson-crowned Weaver	Mr. J. A. Swan.
Bengalese (pair)	Mrs. Dutton.
Aurita Doves (fine pair)	Mr. G. Alston.

THE BIRD MARKET.

Wanted—Good Gouldian or other Exhibition Seedeater.
A. PHILIP, 19, Parnell Place, Dublin.

For Sale—Dark Goldfinch Mule, 10/-, very handsome; Cock Budgerigar, 5/-, acclimatised; Canaries, both Sexes, some crested. State wants.
JAMES STOREY, 5, St. George's Road, Kilburn, N.W.

One pair Zebra Finches, 4/6 pair; one Hen ditto, 2/6; two stylish Linnet Mules, moulted and in song, 7/6 each.
Mrs. DUTTON, Bank Cottage, Wilton, Stone, Staffs.

PARROTS AND PARRAKEETS.

By Dr. C. S. Simpson.

(Continued from page 200).

The Conures (*Conurus*), or Wedge-tailed Parrakeets, form another American group, numbering fifty-two species. Their range includes the Gulf States of North America, Central America, the West Indies, and nearly the whole of South America. It will be observed that this district includes the most Northerly, as well as the most Southerly, latitudes reached by any member of the Parrot family. Many of the Conures are extremely beautiful, and they are hardy and easily kept in confinement, but the great majority are incurable screamers. Among the best known are the Jendaya (*C. jendaya*), the White-eared (*C. leucotis*), the Golden-crowned (*C. aureus*), the Nanday (*C. nenday*), and the Yellow Conure (*C. solstitialis*). The most desirable as a cage bird, in my opinion, is the Patagonian Conure (*C. patagonus*). It is rather a rare bird, and nearly all the specimens I have seen have been very tame and good talkers. The plumage is less gaudy than that of most of its relations, being of a rich olive-brown on the head, neck, and back, while the abdomen is orange-red, and a white band extends across the upper part of the breast. The Patagonian Conure is another of those species which depart from the usual nesting habits of the Parrot family. They are stated on good authority to breed in burrows made in the face of rocky cliffs in Chili and Patagonia. They live and breed in colonies; the face of the rocks which they select for breeding purposes being perforated by innumerable holes, each of which is the entrance to the breeding place of a single pair. While the Patagonian Conure is the only species which reaches the most southern part of South America, on the other hand the Carolina Conure (*C. carolinensis*) is the only species found in North America.

The Thick-billed Parrakeets (*Bolborhynchus*) are nearly related to the Conures, and are confined to Central and South America. The only species which is common as a cage bird is the Quaker Parrakeet (*B. monachus*), an exceedingly pretty bird of a grass green colour, with head and breast of delicate grey: this species learns to talk well, but every specimen I have ever known has been an incessant and excruciating screamer. The chief interest of this Parrakeet lies in the fact that it is the only Parrot which is known to construct a nest. The general custom of the Parrot family is to breed in hollow trees, laying the eggs on bare wood. We have seen, however, that the Lovebirds line the hollow, and that other species breed in burrows, but the Quaker is the only species which builds a true nest. With regard to this remarkable fact Dr. Russ says: "The forests contain thousands of the nests of these Parrakeets, which usually hang from the ends of the branches into which they are woven. Each nest consists of an ante-chamber, and behind this the true nest, which is always occupied by one couple; the entrance is usually effected from below, but if it should be at the side it is protected by a projecting roof. In this manner about a dozen pairs build their nests close together. Every spring the couples build new nests upon the old ones, and thus there arises in time an enormous pile of these structures in one mass, which may often weigh several hundredweights, and on many a sturdy forest tree one may see seven or eight such settlements in which the birds are constantly at work mending the nests; and new ones are always added in the spring for the fresh breeding season. The nests are occupied by the birds, even after the breeding season, all through the year. Thorny twigs are used exclusively for building purposes, and the part of the nest used for hatching is lined with grasses." A pair of Quaker Parrakeets, in the possession of Mr. Sydney Buxton, built an enormous nest, five feet high and six feet in circumference, and other pairs have built nests in captivity. Another species of Bolborhynchus (*B. lineolatus*) is sometimes imported. It is a smaller bird, about seven inches in length, of a rather dull green, with transverse black bars on the edges of the feathers.

THE SMALL-BILLED PARRAKEETS (*Brotogerys*) are the last American group I have to mention, and very charming little birds they are, their tame and confiding disposition making them peculiarly suitable for, and happy in, confinement. They are among the smallest of the Parrakeets, measuring from six to ten inches in length. None of them are very common, those most usually imported being the Tovi Parrakeet (*B. tovi*), the Canary-winged (*B. xanthopterus*), and the All-green Parrakeet (*B. tirica*). Still more rare is the *Brotogerys pyrrhopterus.*

THE RING-NECKED PARRAKEETS (*Palæornis*). The range of the Ring-necked Parrakeeets extends over a considerable portion of Africa, Southern Asia, and the East Indian Islands. Every one is familiar with the Lesser Ring-necked Parrakeet (*P. torquata*) which is so constantly brought from India by soldiers returning thence. Few Parrakeets are more beautiful than this common species, few surpass it intelligence, docility, and talking powers, and none, I believe, are equal to it in the affection it displays for its owner. Nevertheless, it has one fault, and that is a peculiarly shrill and unpleasant scream, and, unlike other Parrots, which generally leave off screaming when they become tame and learn to talk, the Ring-necked Parrakeet will shriek incessantly as long as its owner is in the room, simply because it wishes to be petted and fed, and, being of an extremely affectionate and jealous disposition, cannot bear to be left unnoticed. However, specimens *can* be obtained which do not scream *much.* I had one myself, and can strongly recommend the species to all Parrot lovers in spite of its faults. A yellow variety of the Ring-necked Parrakeet sometimes occurs, but is very rarely seen in this country.

THE Alexandrine Parrakeet (*P. eupatria*) is not so handsome a bird as its smaller relative, and is even a worse screamer, but it is a very good talker. The Plum-headed Parrakeet (*P. cyanocephala*) is very beautiful, bu I have found it quiet and stupid in a cage: the Javan Parrakeet (*P. fasciata*) is the only other species commonly imported. There are three species which are occasionally but rarely seen; these are the Malabar Parrakeet (*P. peristerodes*), the Lucian Parrakeet (*P. modesta*), and the Malaccan Parrakeet (*P. longicauda*).

POLYTELIS.—Barraband's Parrakeet (*P. barrabandi*) is the only representative of this genus imported into England. It is an Australian species, and but seldom offered for sale. I have never kept it, though I unsuccessfully endeavoured to obtain a specimen for some years. It is a very beautiful bird, of a bright grass green, with a face of citron yellow, and a band of deep crimson across the throat. Opinions differ as to the difficulty of keeping this Parrakeet in confinement. Many specimens appear to die from fits when newly imported, others live for years without any trouble on a diet of canary and hemp. It is said to feed on the flower of the wattle shrub in its native haunts, and to be partly insectivorous. Should I ever obtain a specimen, I should feel disposed to feed it on the diet I have found successful in the case of the Many-coloured Parrakeet, that is, canary and hemp seed with a liberal daily allowance of fruit. Barraband's Parrakeet does not seem to be very susceptible to cold.

APROSMICTUS.—The King Parrakeet (*A. scapulatus*) and the Crimson Wing (*A. erythropterus*) are two Australian species which are too well known to need description. Their beauty of plumage is their chief attraction, as they are not very intelligent and do not learn to talk. They are perfectly hardy and require the usual seed diet.

(To be continued).

HINTS ON HYBRID BREEDING FOR BEGINNERS.

There is no hobby so fascinating as hybrid breeding. One is always on the look out for plums, which sometimes arrive, but much more often do not. But when success is finally achieved, all the disappointments are forgotten, or remembered with pleasure as stepping stones, for experience is nearly everything in breeding hybrids.

In my opinion, to breed hybrids successfully three essentials are needed, viz., out-door aviaries, proved feeding Canaries, and the invigorating country air. Now, the size of the aviaries must depend on the room available; but if it is possible I advise one long aviary being built, with movable wire divisions, dividing it into six aviaries of about six feet square; then at pleasure the wire partitions can be removed and the aviaries altered to any desired size. Build the aviary facing south or south-west, with a wall or hedge to protect it from the east wind, which is very trying to the birds in the winter time: and nobody can expect birds which have looked wretched and ruffled all the winter to breed when spring arrives.

The aviaries built, let us make up our minds not to put more than one pair of birds in each aviary; if we do this success will be more certain, and disappointments fewer; although I have found that Greenfinch hens will nest within a few feet of each other, and cause no trouble, when they are quite used to being together, but not the first year they are put in.

But before putting the birds in we must prepare the aviaries for them, and the way in which this is done is very important. According to the birds for which the aviary is intended, plant trees and shrubs, viz.: apple, pear, or thorn trees for Bullfinches; fir trees for Siskins; gorse for Linnets; gorse or a large birch-broom (the same as the gardeners use, only about four times as large) for Greenfinches; and so on all through the list of British

Birds, always arranging the aviaries as near to nature as possible. Of course the hen bird is the one to be considered.

Procure the birds when branchers, and turn them into the aviaries in pairs at once, so that they may get strength to withstand the winter. When spring arrives make a nest in the following way: Take one of the ordinary china nests, and drill half-a-dozen holes around the rim, line it with thick saddler's felt, (sewing the felt tight to the nest, and gluing the edge of the felt tight to the rim), then thread short pieces of string through each of holes previously drilled, and tie it in a suitable place on the tree or shrub in the aviary. You may be certain that, if the pair build, they will build in that nest. This nest has a great many advantages over letting the birds build their own—the eggs will not fall out through the nest being badly built, and if the birds are too lazy to build the felt will protect the eggs.

As to feeding, we must try and give as much variety as we are able. I keep Pheasants in my aviaries, so my birds get the Pheasants' food to pick over. In their seed hoppers, which hold enough seed for a week, they have canary, hemp, and German rape, as staple food; and in the breeding season I give fresh ants' eggs. In addition, they have as large a supply of greenstuff and wild seeding plants as can be found for them. Of course the aviaries must be laid down in grass, for the birds get a great amount of insect life from it. If shelter is wanted in the aviaries, to make the birds more private in the breeding season, a good thing to use is alder tree, because it grows quickly and the birds do not destroy it on account of its pungent taste. A good supply of coarse grit must always be at hand, and if you decide to take the risk of letting the British birds bring up their own young, (instead of putting the eggs under feeders), give them egg and bread food, so that they can eat it if they wish to: some will and some will not. With the above treatment and painstaking care, I have been fairly successful this year, having reared four Linnet-Siskins, nine Linnet-Green-finches and one Goldfinch-Greenfinch; and lost in the moult ten Linnet-Greenfinches, and a Goldfinch-Greenfinch.

E. D. NICHOLAS MAYER.

FOREIGN BIRDS AT THE ZOO.

Once at least, every summer, I try to pay a visit to the Zoological Gardens, to see the Society's collection of foreign birds. This year, circumstances and our climate delayed my trip until the middle of September, and then fine weather and a free afternoon (an extremely rare combination this summer by the way), enabled me to fulfil my intention. It struck me that a few short notes, on the species at present in the Gardens, would prove of interest to those of our members who reside at a distance from our Empire City: therefore it is for them that this article is chiefly written.

My first call was at the Parrot House. Before proceeding, I ought perhaps to explain that practically all the caged foreign birds are kept in the Parrot House, hence my preference in point of call. The *Psittaci*, however, are no favourites of mine, so if you, gentle reader, hoped to hear something of them, I am afraid you will be disappointed. To my mind one Parrot equals one squall, and as there are some two hundred in the house, each trying to out-squall the other, the clamour they create is beyond the power of words to express.

Well, the first birds I noticed were four Gouldian Finches—one Red-headed and three Black-headed. One of the latter appeared unwell—indeed none looked very bright, which is hardly to be wondered at, considering they were all in a cage about one foot cubic measure. In the next cage was a Long-tailed and a Banded Grassfinch, both in good condition. Two Bicheno's were in the next, at least so the card said. As there was only one, however, the deduction was obvious. A lonely little hen Zebra Finch, some White-throated Finches, and a Chipping Sparrow, were in the next three compartments; the latter hails from North America. Then followed a Red-crested Finch, a Guttural Finch looking quite a little aristocrat, a Red-headed Finch, and some Waxbills and Mannikins. A two-coloured Parrot Finch (*E. psittacea*) in the next cage was evidently moulting, but seemed in good health. Immediately underneath was a splendid Large-billed Weaver in full colour and delighfully tame and quiet. It is a large bird, three or four times the size of a Napoleon, and has the front and head a rich yellow, and brown wings, back, and tail. Another name for this species is, I believe, the Giant Weaver Bird.

Some larger cages then attracted my attention, the first three of which contained Toucans. They were all in perfect condition and have been at the Gardens over a year, being sent there when quite young—so young in fact that the keeper told me they did not know how to feed themselves, so he had to teach them. "Nasty nip they can give you, too," he added reminescently, "their beaks have little teeth on the inner edges, and when they get hold of your hand they give a sudden twist, and you know it. You can crush their beaks as easily as an eggshell, though." Three Touracous, the Senegal, Schalow's, and Buffon's next compelled my admiration, and these also were in perfect condition. Magnificent creatures they were, too! Schalow's was the most distinguished looking of the three, mainly on account of his splendid long green drooping crest, each feather comprising it being tipped with white, giving the bird quite a majestic appearance. A Hunting Crow, an exceedingly beautiful bird, was next door—a gift from our member Mr. Russell Humphrys. It has been an inmate for three years, and was in magnificent plumage, and very tame. Five Troupials, all moulting, and forming a decided contrast to their neighbours, were further on. The tails and wing feathers were all broken, giving them a most disreputable look. "They've been in the wars," I remarked to the keeper. "In the wars!" he replied, "I should think they have; why, they fight like blazes! One's a hen," he added in explanation.

Two Bare-throated Bell Birds were put away in a corner with hardly sufficient room to turn round in. The last time I saw them they had a large cage and attracted considerable attention by their peculiar notes. A Green and a Crimson-crested Barbet followed, looking quiet and sedate. The small cages took all the life out of these birds. An old friend, the White-capped Tanager, brought criticism into play. It was in fine colour, but not in the best condition. What its age must be is somewhat of a puzzle. It has been in the Gardens over eighteen years—the longest authentic instance, I suppose, of any Tanager living in captivity. Two other Tanagers, the Thick-billed, and the All Green, were in the next compartment. Neither were beautiful, the Thick-billed less so than the All Green, which was just coming into colour: both were in poor condition. Two Striated Tanagers, (a specimen of which was offered me recently), were in the next cage. They did not look at all well and the keeper prophesied they would soon "go." Further on, some Sugar Birds were making the most of the small space at their disposal. What lively little fellows they are! There were specimens of the Blue and of the Yellow-winged—two or three of the latter—one of these showing its bright wing feathers to advantage. The Blue Sugar Birds were out of color. A Blue-winged Siva and a Silver-eared Mesia occupied the two following cages. Both are rather rare birds, but were not otherwise very interesting.

A Golden-headed Hangnest, a Yellow-tufted and a Warty-faced Honeyeater, all in good condition, completed the list. The most noticable absentees were the Superb Tanagers. I mentioned the matter to the keeper, and he replied that they, (the Society), never could keep them for any length of time; they died with monotonous regularity. The pity 'tis 'tis true, as I know to my cost.

I stayed chatting with the man some time, and among other interesting items, he told me that a certain Hyacinthe Macaw, at that moment basking in the sun, was supposed to be the celebrated winner of so many prizes at our leading Shows a few years ago. Just as I was about to start for the Western Aviaries, the keeper casually mentioned that they had a bird in the Insect House that I might like to see, and when he told me what that bird was I did not go to the Western Aviaries. No, I went to the Insect House instead, and by the shortest route. There, practically hidden away, (for who would go to an Insect House to find birds!), I saw a bird that I certainly never expected to see alive in England, though I am aware that at least one living specimen has been brought over before. It was, without doubt, the rarest and most beautiful bird in the Gardens, and to do it adequate justice I must leave the account of it for a separate article. Perhaps there may be room in our next issue.

There were a few other birds in the Insect House however—a White-headed Woodpecker from Brazil, for instance, which was quite at home, having been in the Society's possession over five years. A relation, the Golden-backed Woodpecker of India, was a more recent addition: (July this year). Some Mynahs sitting in a row, attracted more attention than the *rara avis*, because one of their number, the smaller Hill Mynah, managed to utter a quaint word or two; and a Yellow-eyed Babbler drew my notice to himself by endeavouring to devour my notes, while they were incautiously held close to his cage.

It was rapidly nearing five o'clock, when at last I left the Insect House. Tea occupied but a very short time, for as the Gardens closed before six, I saw I should have none to spare. The Western Aviaries were practically my last point of call, and on reaching them I found I should miss seeing most of the inmates. Dusk was beginning to fall, and the birds had retired into the covered-in portion. The first to attract my attention were some laughing Jackasses—though quiet enough then. Two Grey Struthideas, busily engaged with supper, were in another division, and were quickly joined by a third, apparently wanting his share. They were all in fine condition and the embodiment of health. It was a representative of the species, by the way, that won the Memorial Trophy for the rarest bird at the last Palace Show.

Further on several species of Weavers, the Orange, Red-billed, Napoleon, and Madagascar among others, showed up prominently against the sable beauty of a Long-tailed Whydah bird, who displayed his wonderful tail to the best advantage, by long sweeping flights. As the shades of evening fell more quickly the birds retired to shelter, the last one I noticed being a Bleeding Heart Pigeon standing meditatively beneath a large tree. A rapid glance at the Great Aviary with its splendid collection of Aquatic Birds followed—and my visit was at an end.

J. A. SWAN.

THE BEARDED TITMOUSE IN NORFOLK.

This elegant little bird, locally known as the "Reed Pheasant," and sometimes more appropriately called the Bearded Reedling, remains with us throughout the year; but is confined almost entirely to the district of the Broads, where the swampy nature of the soil and the extensive reed beds afford it food and shelter.

The Reedling commences breeding operations early in the spring—building in the month of March. Nests containing eggs have been found in the first week in April. The nests are generally placed amongst the reed stems close to the water's edge, supported on loose herbage that forms the foundation of the reed beds, but never in any way suspended. The materials consist of the dead leaves of the sedge and reed, loosely interwoven on the outside, whilst the feathery top of the reed forms the only lining.

To obtain one of these nests entire it is necessary to cnt and remove reed, roots, and soil. The eggs vary in number and are very transparent, having a white ground with streaks of red. Formerly these were much sought for by collectors, and a good price has been paid for a genuine clutch (which could be obtained from one individual at Hickling, he being an expert at the business).

Flocks of these birds may be seen during the winter months on Heigham Sounds, Horsey Mere, Hickling and Barton Broads. When taking flight from one reed bed to another, they are easily distinguished by their silvery note "*ching-ching*" uttered preparatory to their pitching into the nearest reed bed. Delicate as these creatures appear, they have been found during the sharpest frosts still busy among the reed stems, as lively and musical as ever.

Some few summers ago I took a friend (then a member of the N. B. B. & M. C.) to Heigham Sounds, the home of the Tit, and, much to his delight, we were not there long before the well known note of "*ching*" was heard, and in a few minutes one was seen to fly across an opening in the reeds, followed by others. At that time of the year (August) the reeds were so thick that none could be seen unless they were on the wing. Then, for a change, we took the old Meadow Dyke, which led us to Horsey Mere, a row of one and a half miles. Reed and Sedge Warblers were the chief birds by the shore. On returning to Whittlesea, we landed by the side of a cottage at the entrance of Hickling. to collect some rushes. Here a fine young cock bird arose within a few feet of my friend, much to his delight.

I secured a nest of young in 1895, and was successful in rearing them, but I found them to be very mischievous to one another when they were able to feed themselves—pulling each others tails out. I prevented this by putting a pane of glass in the partition of a large cage, and fixing the perches so as to meet at the bottom of the glass. At roosting time the two young Reedlings would huddle close together, on each side of the glass, and in that way they settled down to captivity. I disposed of the hens previously and only retained the two cocks.

One of them I exhibited at St. Ives Show, and he was awarded 1st Prize, but he came to grief about a week afterwards, suddenly dropping from his perch dead. The other poor little chap was much distressed for a time, when he looked through the glass partition and failed to see his brother and companion.

The remaining one I kept two years, and showed him at Yarmouth, Norwich, and Ipswich, and intended exhibiting him at the Palace, as the question of including the species in the list of British Birds was just at that time decided by the National British Bird and Mule Club in favour of adding it to the list. But during the moult he died. I may say that those I have seen shown at the Palace in the British Bird Classes looked to me suspiciously like foreigners: their plumage being of a much lighter shade than any British specimen I ever received, and I have had them at all times of the year.

Great Yarmouth. W. LOWNE.

THE DOUBLE-BANDED OR BICHENO'S FINCH.

(Stictoptera bichenovii).

Though by no means brightly coloured, this is one of the prettiest and most charming of the Grassfinches. It has been well known in this country for some thirty years, but has never been imported in great numbers, and has sometimes been almost unprocurable. Formerly one of the most expensive of foreign finches, it has, like nearly all other species, fallen greatly in price of late years, and can now sometimes be obtained at about the price the Zebra Finch fetched ten years ago.

The Double-banded Finch generally reaches this country in poor condition, and is then very delicate. Probably it would not stand cold so well as the larger Grassfinches, and it can scarcely be called a hardy bird at any time—but on the other hand, when carefully imported in summer, it seems fairly easy to keep it in health. The four which I purchased in June last are all still alive and well.

This species was bred in England by Mr. Wiener and others more than twenty years ago. It has been bred many times since, but not so frequently as might have been expected.

Soon after my four arrived, I felt satisfied that there was at least one true pair among them, but I have never been able to tell the individuals apart. After keeping them for some time in an aviary without nest boxes, where some desultory attempts at nest-building were made in the boughs—I turned the four into a rather larger bird-room aviary, with a mixed collection of Waxbills and Mannikins, a cock Zebra Finch, and a Pin-tailed Whydah. This aviary measures about 5 feet in breadth, depth, and height, and contains three nest boxes, all more or less filled with hay by the birds. A few weeks ago I missed one of the Double-bands—that is to say, I could only see three of them. I began to fear that the fourth had either escaped, or died in a nest box, when I heard a sound of young birds being fed. A good many days passed, and still only three Double-banded Finches were visible. Occasionally I heard the sound of young birds, but as I never saw the parents entering or leaving a nest box, I began to doubt the evidence of my ears and think that the noise was caused by some Bronze Mannikins quarrelling. At last I became impatient and climbed into the aviary—(it is an "upper storey," 5ft. from the floor)—but though I looked into each nest box I could see nothing, and came out fairly well satisfied that there were no young birds. After this I could sometimes see four Double-bands, and the noise of feeding was still heard. On the 3rd of October there were undoubtedly *five* Double-bands in the aviary, and one of these, distinguishable by its smaller size and dingier appearance, was clearly a young one. A few days after another young one made its appearance.

The young were reared almost entirely on seed—chiefly, I fancy, "Indian" Millet. But green food was supplied with some degree of regularity, and a small supply of insectivorous food, containing a large proportion of preserved egg, was always in the aviary. I think some of the soft food, though not much, was eaten by the parent Double-bands.

The most noticeable peculiarity about the nesting of this species is its extreme amiability towards other birds during the breeding season. The Double-banded Finch neither interferes with other birds, nor allows itself to be interfered with by them. It goes its own way without any of the fuss and ostentatious combativeness indulged in by most species while nesting. It is consequently quite an ideal aviary bird.

H. R. FILLMER.

WILD BIRD NOTES.*

I have been staying at Felixstowe for a fortnight in search of invigorating sea breezes, but as yet have met only with land winds. This part of the East Coast faces due South.

I have looked for birds every morning, and have been pleased to find a good many Goldfinches. The largest family flying together numbered only five, but twos and threes are quite ordinary. From this I conclude that the young birds separate even thus early in July.

Linnets are very common, and families of seven are constantly met with. I watched ten youngsters, the two old pairs catering for them. They were fully grown and quietly remained on some faggots only three yards from me. I noticed them about two and again at five p.m. I marvelled at the inactivity of these fully grown youngsters, and why they did not attempt to forage for themselves. The nestlings I have brought up by hand in my earlier days were mostly able to support themselves before their tails were fully grown.

Skylarks are plentiful, but I see very few branchers yet. I have flushed a good many of these birds, but they all rise up a little way and start singing. Where are the youngsters? It stands to reason there must be hundreds of the first brood about, but they do not take wing readily.

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* These Notes were written in July last.—ED.

The larger Whitethroat is in evidence everywhere, and I have heard some excellent imitations of different birds' notes in its song.

On or about 1st July, a very stormy and showery day, I watched some three hundred Swifts congregating very low in the air. They had gathered over the Western end of the beach, and although they must have had a hard time all that day they were apparently not feeding, nor did they utter a sound. With the fall of night they allowed themselves to be wafted over the town towards the Eastern end of the beach, and have not congregated since, no doubt owing to the improved weather.

What can it have been in that northern half gale that caused them to collect in such numbers, (probably the whole contingent of the Felixstowe Swifts), and stay together for more than half-a-hour?

We have, of course, Blackbirds, Thrushes, and Starlings galore. What I found very poorly represented are Fieldfares, Red-backed Shrikes, Swallows, Martins, Yellowhammers, Chaffinches, Rock Pipits, Stonechats, Hedge Sparrows, Wrens; still I have seen some few of each of these.

I could mention a score of species, breeding on the South Coast, of which there is nothing to be seen here this summer. A. R.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A MARVELLOUS RECOVERY.

Sir,—Some time ago, I think last June, I did a silly thing. I was short of cages, and to make room for a new comer I put a Blue-cheeked Barbet in with a small Toucan, who generally has a large cage to himself. I own I did it with fear and trembling lest the Toucan's great beak should cause bloodshed—but when I first put them together the Barbet drove the Toucan away, and for the remainder of the day they did not seem to take any notice of each other—so I left them, thinking all was well. Next morning I went into the bird room at half-past six, to see if they were all right, and found the Barbet on the ground, apparently dead. I took him out and found that although insensible he was still living, and that he had a wound on the top of his head larger than a pea. I doctored him to the best of my ability, but he remained unconscious until two o'clock, at which time he half opened one eye and raised his head a little. I took him up and put a quarter of a grape in his beak; he did not at first attempt to swallow it, but after a little while he managed to get it down with a little assistance from my finger and thumb. After that he gradually picked up, and by six o'clock he was able to get on his perch, though still in a very dazed condition, in which he remained for a good many weeks.

He is now as well as ever he was, which says a good deal for his constitution. S. M. Townsend.

A NOVEL DIET FOR SOFT BILLS.

Sir,—I feed my Pekin Nightingale principally on bread and cream. I prepare it by pouring boiling water over the bread and then squeezing it very dry and mixing it with cream. All my soft-billed birds prefer this food to any other. I have bought several other kinds of food, but they will not touch it when the bread and cream is about. I may say that all the birds fed in this way are in splendid condition, and I have not lost a single one, though I have kept them for many months.

The Pekin always sleeps in a box at night with a Brazilian Hangnest, of which he is very fond.

M. E. Baker.

EPISCOPAL BIRDS.

Sir,—A clergyman, who knows nothing about foreign birds, was being shown over my bird room one day in my absence. He stopped in front of a bird and asked what it was, on being told that it was a Cardinal he said "Ah!" Going on a little farther he asked "What bird is this?" "A Bishop," was the reply. "Ah!" said he. Passing by several birds he stopped at another and asked what that was—it was an Archbishop Tanager! He made no more enquiries. S. M. Townsend.

COMMON OR RARE?

Sir,—Everyone knows how many species of foreign birds, which used to be accounted rare, have of late years become common objects of our bird-shops. The fact that some few species, once common, are now more or less rare, is less often remarked upon. The Two-coloured Mannikin (*Spermestes bicolor*) which Mr. Wiener calls the "Cape Palmas Finch," is now an almost unknown species. I believe that I once saw an example—but certainly never more than one. Yet Mr. Weiner says of it "these last few years by no means rarely seen in bird-dealers' shops." Here we have the case of a bird being fairly plentiful in the seventies and extremely rare now.

Another instance is the Red-headed or Poker-headed Weaver (*Quelea erythrops*). Of this Mr. Wiener says, "Since 1871 this bird has arrived in considerable numbers." I saw one in 1893, when it was considered somewhat of a curiosity. I do not remember to have seen or heard of one since. Randolph Quin.

NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD AND MULE CLUB.

Committee Meeting held at Headquarters, 25, High Holborn, 2nd October, 1902.

Present: Mr. Pollard (Vice-Chairman), Messrs. C. Cooper, Maxwell, Sandy, Morgan, Urch, Jones, Emms, Vale, Merrifield, Plumbridge, Frostick, and the Hon. Secretary.

Letters were read from Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Weston, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Godwin, Mr. Lythgoe, Mr. Tyson, Mr. Egerton and Mr. Steele.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The application on behalf of Gateshead and District Society was considered, and it was agreed to grant them one Gold and one Silver, or three Silver Medals.

Mr. Weston made an application on behalf of the Leicester Cage Bird Society. The fixture not being till early next year it was decided to defer the matter till next month, pending fuller particulars.

The application of the Whitehaven Cage Bird and Homer Society. It was agreed, after discussion, to grant them one Gold Medal.

Our Vice-Chairman having to leave, Mr. Jones was voted to the chair.

The Hon. Secretary brought up the question of the advisability of witholding the Magazine from those members who have not paid their subscriptions; but it was decided that he should remind defaulting members this month and abstain from sending them the next issue of the Magazine.

This concluding the actual business of the meeting the long standing matter of the Standards was next gone into, and it was agreed to publish the next set of Standards, with a view to their adoption, next month.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the meeting.

W. A. LOTT, *Hon. Sec.*,
NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD & MULE CLUB,
103, Cheapside, London, E.C.

OCTOBER.

Manchester & N.C.O.S.	31 & Nov. 1.	2 Gold.*

NOVEMBER.

Warrington & Dis. O.S.	8	1 Gold.
West London F.A.	12 & 13	2 Gold.*
Whitehaven C.B. & H.S.	14 & 15	1 Gold.
L.C.B.A.	18, 19 & 20.	3 Gold & 2 Silver*
Whitehaven Bantam S.	21 & 22	1 Gold.

DECEMBER.

Hull	5 & 6	2 Gold.
Gateshead & Dis.	12 & 13	1 Gold & 1 Silver or 3 Silver
Barnsley	——	

The above is the list of Shows with dates and number of Medals given up to the present time.

Twite or Mountain Linnet.

Steadiness	30
Size	20
Markings should be bold and distinct	20
Quality and condition	25
Staging	5
	100

Mealy Redpoll.

Steadiness	10
Size	20
Markings clear and well defined	40
Shape erect as possible, quality and condition	20
Staging	10
	100

This bird should not be allowed to win over the Lesser Redpoll for size merely, but each species should be judged on its respective merits.

Lesser Redpoll.—Precisely as Mealy.

Common or Corn Bunting.

Steadiness	50
Size	10
Good bold markings; colour, the browner the better; and quality	20
Condition and staging	20
	100

Yellow Bunting.

Steadiness	40
Size	10
Colour: the yellow especially, to be plentiful and bright; the brown, of a bright chestnut; and remainder of pure quality	25
Of somewhat chubby type; quality and condition throughout	20
Staging	5
	100

Cirl Bunting.

Same as yellow, but not nearly so much yellow and brown colour, nor of equal quality expected; and 50 points allowed for steadiness.

Reed Bunting.

Steadiness	50
Size	10
All colours bold and distinct, the white showing well up against the black; the deeper the brown the better	20
Type, not so chubby as yellow; quality and condition throughout	15
Staging	5
	100

The above Standards are submitted to Members for their views and suggestions, and their approval or otherwise. Will they kindly send on their criticisms by next monthly meeting? W. A. Lott.

NOTES.

I heard the other day of a cock Goldfinch and hen Greenfinch rearing a nest of Yorkshire Canaries—this is the reverse of the usual order of things.

Why should not Show Committees provide a Class for hen Bullfinches? I feel sure there would be keen competition, as there are plenty of them, and good ones too, in the breeding rooms of hybrid breeders in all parts of the country.

Will members note that last year one or two gentlemen lost the Medals won by them by reason of their not having paid their Subscriptions?

If any members have not received their copies of last month's Magazine, will they please to let me know?

There are some printer's errors in the list of Shows published last month, at which our Medals are placed, "South W. London" should read "West London." In the last entry on the list the place of the Show is omitted—it is Hull. The Manchester and Northern Counties Ornithological Society has *two* Gold Medals, not one.

Members will notice that at Shows marked in this month's list with an asterisk, one Gold Medal is for competition among those who have never won a Medal of the Club.

I do hope all the Shows at which our Medals are given will be heartily supported. The Show Committees have given a good classification—they have ventured much in the hope that they will get the entries, and we have liberally given the Medals, and they must be liberally supported. The Medals given at these Shows should result in a great augmentation of the membership of our Club—such as I hoped for twelve months ago.

My ambitions as to our membership are by no means near their fulfilment. I feel that the work of your Committee and Officers deserves to be rewarded by greater energy on the part of the members in securing new subscribers. Will each do his best to send on at least one introduction? I want to make a record report at the end of our year.

The London Cage Bird Association's Show at the Royal Aquarium is the final one at that place, as the building has been acquired by the Wesleyans. Where the Association will hold their next show remains to be seen, but at all events I hope they will this time have a record entry of British birds and hybrids. The Club has made a record grant of Medals, for there are no less than five to be competed for. So don't forget the final meeting of the Champions at the Royal Aquarium.

Let me remind Secretaries of Shows that I am expecting from each of them an advertisement in at least one issue of "Bird Notes." I am only making a nominal charge of 2/- for the same.

Will members encourage me a little by sending me copy for the Magazine more freely? Experiences, accounts of breeding attempts, papers on any birdy matters, or some suggestions for the possible improvement of "Bird Notes"—all will be welcome.

Many members and friends have noticed in the public press various accounts of the celebrated "Jackdaw of Brixton." The bird was well known to members of the Club who lived in the neighbourhood of Brixton and Clapham. I can remember a little incident in connection with him. I have been in the habit for years of keeping a few birds in my office in Cheapside. At that time I had a very nice "Gale" which I was taking great care of, and having run out of the inevitable mealworms, I carefully put into a tobacco box a quantity of them and placed them in my pocket for conveyance to the "City," and duly jumped upon a tram car a short distance from the headquarters of Master Jackdaw; in a minute or two he came flying on to the rail of the car and began his usual cawing and jabbering, but soon he was upon my back, and with a vigorous peck he had secured a mealworm. How had he got into my pocket? Or had he enticed them out, and how? And yet again another dash up at my collar. Other occupants of the car were alarmed, and the ladies were in great consternation, for I was smothered in mealworms, and my Lord Jackdaw was in a mighty hurry to secure more. On taking out my improvised receptacle for the mealworms, I discovered a hole in the side of the box through which they had gained their liberty, only, however, to find another and more secure prison house in the Jackdaw's crop. The ladies and gentlemen on board failed to understand why I should have such horrid creatures crawling all over me, and I must have seemed an unclean person to some of them. But Master Jackdaw had a large amount of cupboard love for me all the way to the Elephant and Castle, where with a laugh of satisfaction and a parting salutation he got on to another car on his way home. I am afraid he did not have such a happy time on his homeward journey. This same bird was exhibited at our own Show held at the Crystal

Palace in 1898, securing third prize in a good Class for his owner, Mr. Beck. At the Show he was a constant source of amusement to visitors by his antics and talk.

Mr. Tolhurst has asked me to note that, owing to the serious illness of his wife, he was unable to attend the last meeting of the Committee to proceed with his resolution, *re* the reduction of the charges for the conveyance of cage birds to and from Shows.

Mr. H. Robbins informs me that a pair of Hoopoes nested and brought up their young near Winchester this season.

W. A. LOTT.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Now that the long winter evenings have begun, we can settle down to reading and writing with real pleasure —this is the time when our Club may reasonably expect the energetic help of all its members. We may congratulate ourselves on the progress already made, and we look forward to still greater developments in the future. But the success of the Club depends upon its members. We do not expect *all* the members to take an active part—but surely a much larger proportion might do something more than pay their subscriptions—(unfortunately a good many seem reluctant to do even that—but that is another story). There are two principal ways in which members can help (1) by introducing new members (2) by writing for "Bird Notes." Once again, at the risk of being thought too importunate, I would ask every member to try to help in both ways. I shall be very pleased to send a supply of cards setting forth the objects of the Club, and specimen copies of "Bird Notes," to any who can make use of them. Or, if members prefer to send me the names and addresses of acquaintances interested in birds, I will correspond with them myself with the view of getting them to join the Club. Then, as to writing for "Bird Notes"—if members can send good long articles I shall be grateful for them, but what I like equally well are short practical papers and correspondence. Everyone who keeps birds must have had *some* experience worth recording—let us have it, even if the telling of it will occupy a few lines only. No one need be afraid of sending what he may consider rubbish—I, as Editor, will be the judge of that, and I have a large waste paper basket. Do, please, help me to make the next few numbers of "Bird Notes" the fullest and most interesting which have appeared.

The well-known Red-faced Love-bird *(Agapornis pullaria)* has, I believe, never nested successfully in this country. It is very rare for it to make any attempts in that direction, and therefore the fact that our member Mrs. Anningson obtained eggs from her birds this summer, is worth recording.

The classification of foreign birds in the Schedule of the Autumn show of the L. and P. O. Society, is an amazing production. Apparently its authors do not consider Amazons and Greys to be Parrots—for their first class is for "Amazons and Grey Parrots, Macaws, Cockatoos and Parrots, including Lories." "Waxbills, Mannikins, Combassous, Weavers and any Whydahs" is another peculiar class. I should like to know the exact meaning which attaches to the word "any" before Whydahs. The Grassfinches are not included in this class, and therefore go with the finches in the class for A. O. V. of Seed-eating Birds—the effect of which is that the judge has to decide what species are Waxbills or Mannikins and what are Grassfinches, with the result that he either has to "wrong class" pretty freely, or be afterwards criticised for undue laxity. It may be necessary at Shows with a very large number of classes to distinguish the Grassfinch from their congeners—but it is certainly both unnecessary and undesirable to do so when only eight or nine classes for foreign birds are provided. Why the class for Java Sparrows should be restricted to Grey, and why these must be exhibited singly, are problems which I feel to be beyond me. The class for "Common Avadavats" is a novelty which is scarcely likely to be a success.

HORATIO R. FILLMER,
Hon. Sec. FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
52, Ship Street, Brighton.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

Mr. THOMAS KEMPING THORNBORROW, 51, Swinton Street, King's Cross, London.

Mr. G. E. HARRISON, Radford House, Stone, Staffs.

Miss E. M. HOPKINSON, 45, Sussex Square, Brighton.

Mrs. D. W. CURTIS. Market Place, Stowmarket.

Miss M. E. BAKER, Granite House, Mount Sorrell, Loughborough.

Mr. E. J. TIGHE, Junr., Merville, Sligo.

Mr. JOHN KEATING, Castle Street, Sligo

Dr. J. F. PLOMLEY, Knightrider House, Maidstone.

Mr. C. S. R. PERRING, 144a, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED.

Mr. ALLEN SILVER, 43, Gabriel's Hill, Maidstone.

Mr. A. BULLOCK WEBSTER, King's Close, Barnstaple.

Mr. A. C. ROLLS, Vancourtland, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

Miss THEODORA SAYWELL, The College, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.

Mr. GEORGE COCHRANE, St. Boswell's, Scotland.

Mr. CHARLES E. THOMAS, 362, Mare St., Hackney, N.E.

Mrs. E. OLLARD, Conway, Palace Rd., East Molesey, Sry.
Proposed by Mr. SWAN.

Mr. J. L. T. DOBBIN, St. James's Gate, Dublin.

Mr. G. W. TAYLOR, 49, Dawson Street, Dublin.

Mr. CHARLES HARRIS, Naturalist, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Mr. FRANK C. PORTE, 28, South Mall, Cork.

Mr. J. F. DICKSON, Walworth, Grand Canal Harbour, Dublin.
Proposed by Mr. PHILIP.

Dr. C. S. SIMPSON, 2, Portland Road, Hove.
Proposed by Mr. FILLMER.

The following is a list of Shows for the forthcoming season at which the Club Medals will be offered for competition. Grants to other Shows will doubtless be made by our Show Committee, and these will be duly notified in these pages.

Norwich. 11th and 12th Oct. F. B. C. Classification C. One silver medal and one bronze. Judge, Mr. HILLS.

Manchester. 31st Oct. and 1st Nov. F. B. C. Classification A. One bronze medal. Judge, Mr. HOULTON.

Nottingham. 8th and 10th Nov. F. B. C. Classification B. One bronze medal. Judge, Mr. ROTHERA.

Sligo. 12th and 13th Nov. 4 classes. One bronze medal. Judge, Mr. BOWKER.

Royal Aquarium. 18th, 19th & 20th November. F. B. C. Classification E. Two silver medals and two bronze. Judge, Mr. CAMPS.

OUR DEFICIT.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

It is with deep regret that I present the statement of the efforts that are being made to decrease our Deficit. To those who have so kindly come forward—all honour! It is perfectly clear, however, that unless the large majority of the members give their assistance, the scheme will be a comparative failure.

May I, therefore, appeal once more, *directly to each member*, and earnestly ask them to help the Club tide over this difficulty. With an increased membership, it is not likely to occur again. J. A. SWAN.

87, Lower Kennington Lane, S.E.

	Purchased by	*Amount realised.*
Mrs. Dutton's Bengalese ..	Mrs. Mortimer..	7/6
Mr. Fillmer's Canary ..	Mr. Storey ..	5/0

Offers.	*Presented by*
Red-billed Weavers (fine pair) ..	Mr. A. Philip.
Singing Canary and Cage	Mr. J. Storey.
Red-vented Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*)	Mr. F. C. Thorpe.
Crimson-crowned Weaver	Mr. J. A. Swan.
Aurita Doves (fine pair)	Mr. G. Alston.
Cat Bird (hen)	Mr. H. R. Fillmer.

THE BIRD MARKET.

Only members of the N. B. B. & M. C. or the F. B. C. can advertise here. The charge is one penny for every four words, address included. All advertisements relating to British birds must be sent to Mr. Lott, and all relating to foreign birds to Mr. Fillmer. The Hon. Secretaries of the respective Clubs are authorised to decline advertisements which they consider unsuitable.

Advertisements for the next issue must be received by the 15th NOVEMBER.

Linnet-Siskin; Linnet; Greenfinch; Goldfinch-Greenfinch. This season's birds; grand condition. Highest offers accepted.

EMIL MAYER, 18, Gt. Marlboro' St., London, W.

Wanted—Cock Grey Singing Finch, in song.

J. A. SWAN, 87, Lower Kennington Lane,
London, S.E.

Two Chaffinches steady, one not steady; Greenfinch, Linnet-Greenfinch, Bramblefinch with hen Chaffinch (had an egg this season, but it broke); two cock Weavers, twice cage-moulted Redpoll. All fine birds, will make winners. Two Buff and two Yellow Norwich, 1902, large for muling. Offers; will exchange for pedigree bitch.

ROBBINS, 25, Campden Hill Square, W.

Pair Zebra Doves, moulted, 6/-; Six Zebra Finches, two months old, 12/-, from outdoor aviary.

A. BULLOCK-WEBSTER, King's Close, Barnstaple.

Male Peach-faced Love-bird, aviary-bred, perfect, 10/-.

Dr. SIMPSON, 2, Portland Road, Hove.

Indigo cocks, 7/6, hens 12/6; Nonpareils, 7/6; Blue Barbets, 25/- each; Superb Tanagers, 22/- each; pairs of Tanagers, 50/- pair; Napoleon Weavers, 10/6 pair; Golden Weavers *(Hyphantornis galbula)* 10/6 pair; Scarlet, also Orange, Weavers, 10/6; Half-masked Weavers, 7/6; Whydahs, 10/-, 15/6, 18/6 pair according to length of tail; Blackcaps, 6/- each. Send for list of other spare birds.

H. W. BURGESS, High Street, Bushey, Herts.

☞ *All communications for "Bird Notes" in reference to the British Bird and Hybrid department should be addressed to the Hon. Sec. of the National British Bird and Mule Club, and all communications in reference to Foreign Birds to the Hon. Sec. of the Foreign Bird Club.*

BIRDS FROM THE GAMBIA.

By E. HOPKINSON.

The following are some rough notes on the more interesting birds which I brought from West Africa last July, and which I still have in my possession, either in a garden-aviary or indoors.

On the whole, I am very doubtful if the result is worth the trouble and expense involved in collecting them in Africa and bringing them home; for of the 700 odd which I brought, the great majority were of the commoner species which can usually be bought so cheaply in London. On the other hand, the mortality has, I think, been considerably lower in this lot than among the ordinary dealer's birds of the same kind: no doubt because they were a shorter time in the crowded travelling cages, and got rather better ~~looked after~~ on the voyage; it certainly cannot be attributed to their arrival in *summer* weather this year.

I will now take the birds in order, and say what I have to say under each head: nothing very noteworthy or original, I am afraid.

FIREFINCHES. Of these I have three kinds, the Common *(Lagonosticta senegala)*, the Vinaceous *(L. vinacea)*, and thirdly, three specimens of a species I have only recently identified, the Red-breasted Firefinch *(L. rufopicta)*.

With these birds I have been very lucky, as out of the dozen which I kept, only two have so far died (one Common and one Red-breasted). This is to me quite a new experience, as I have never before been able to keep Firefinches for any length of time even indoors, much less outside—as these birds still are (and where they will probably have to remain all the winter now, as I cannot catch them to bring them in as I ought). Any other bird in the aviary is sooner or later easily captured with a butterfly-net, but these are so wonderfully quick in dodging the net that I have not yet succeeded in catching one. Beside their extraordinary activity, they are the slimmest birds at escaping that I know; when first caught they used to squeeze out through holes which none of the other birds would attempt; even the smaller Zebra Waxbills could not, or at any rate did not, get through a hole hardly more than a crack, by which I lost about half-a-dozen Firefinches.

Just now a pair in the aviary, taking advantage of the present genial weather, is industriously engaged in piling up a collection of straw, grass, and wool, in a cocoanut husk; but I hope the hen will not be so misguided as to lay, for the result will almost certainly be fatal.

The VINACEOUS FIREFINCH is a rather larger bird than the Common, and in disposition is much quieter and more sedate; those I brought home arrived in almost perfect condition, though for a month or more they had been in a cage with at least two hundred other birds, many of which, as was to be expected, suffered more or less in their plumage; but these always seemed to be cleaning themselves up and were always ready for a bath. The only other bird of this species I have had previously, was one I bought a few years ago in very poor condition, but he soon grew fresh feathers and afterwards remained in perfect condition till his death by suffocation, (the result of an accident with the stove), some eighteen months later. In Africa I never noticed them with the common Firefinches about the villages, for they kept further afield, frequenting the borders of the cultivation, and especially the rice-fields near the swamps. Description.—The cock has a black mask and grey crown, while the rest of the body is a beautiful plum-colour; the tail and wing-feathers are a much richer shade of the same colour and blackish underneath; on the sides of the breast are a few white spots. Bill and feet blackish. The hen is similar in colour, but is not so bright, and the tail and wings are more uniform with the body-colour; she has also no black mask, but the crown and face immediately round the bill are grey, which gradually merges into the plum-colour surroundings.

The RED-BREASTED FIREFINCH is about the size of the Common, and I should think resembles it in habits, but as I only once met with one small flock of these birds wild, I can only judge from their very similar habits in confinement. I do not know if there is any difference in the sexes—my two survivors are alike, brown above, (including crown), and pinky-crimson below, with many distinct white spots on the breast. The bill is pinkish red shaded with black. Feet dirty-red.

LAVENDER FINCHES. These were a most unsatisfactory lot from my point of view; they are by no means common in the Gambia, and I only got about ten, all of which died before reaching England or within a month of their arrival. In their own country they are among the most conspicuous of the small birds, moving about in small flocks among the low bush and over the fallows, feeding on grass-seeds; also, I suspect, eating a good many insects as well. These birds, and also the Firefinches, I feel certain, require in captivity some substitute for insects, and it is the lack of this, and not merely the change of climate, which militates against their thriving under the changed conditions. How such a substitute can be provided is beyond me; I find that they will look at none of our ordinary insects, except an occasional small spider, and even if they were keen on them, it would be a practical impossibility to keep more than one bird supplied with such delicacies. Daddy-longlegs, I felt certain, would be appreciated, as there is a very similar but smaller insect which appears occasionally in swarms out there, and these swarms always cause great excitement among the little birds. Firefinches, more particularly, I have often watched hunting and catching the insects with great eagerness, rapidly devouring their prey on the ground and then up and off for more. Remembering this, I fully expected they would enjoy our "daddy" in its season, but was disappointed,—the other birds, Weavers, etc., enjoyed them, but the smaller ones would take no interest whatever in the English edition of their favourite food, and I have given up the futile attempt to provide live food. It is true that the birds often have a few mealworms and ants' eggs; but I merely throw in four or five of the former at times, not nearly enough to make any appreciable addition to their dietary; and as regards the latter, it is only by putting a tinful of a mixture of egg and soaked ants' eggs in place of the seed-hopper, and not giving any fresh seed till later in the day, that I can get the birds to eat any soft food at all; the birds return again and again to the well-known supply department and eventually take what they find there, in despair of ever getting anything better.

But I really must keep to my subject, and will now turn to the next bird of the list, the AURORA FINCH, which is a fairly common bird in the Gambia, but one not unlikely to escape notice, as birds of this species do not frequent the low bush so much as the other Waxbills, but spend a great part of their time in the trees; at any rate I only saw them in places where trees flourished. It was not till I had been in the country some months, that I found that a small flock roosted every night in the two tall cotton trees under which our camp was pitched. All day they were absent in the swamps or rice-fields, (where I often met with them when out shooting), returning at dusk to roost. I do not know if they nest in the trees, as I left before the breeding season began, but there were a number of old nests in our trees, which I am almost sure belonged to these birds. I have kept these Waxbills previously, but I do not believe I have ever had a true pair before, at any rate I have never noticed before the marked difference between the sexes—the cocks such clear blue-grey, and the hens so comparatively dull-coloured.

(To be continued).

THE GOLD-CREST.

(Regulus cristatus).

The Golden-crested Wren, which might be aptly termed the English Humming-bird—being the smallest British bird, and one of the handsomest — is an exceedingly interesting species in confinement. It can stand a great deal of cold, especially if allowed the range of an aviary: an indoor one by preference, as there is then less risk of the drinking water being frozen. It is extremely active, being constantly on the move from sunrise to sunset; and this activity, no doubt, keeps the bird from feeling the effects of the cold.

During severe winter weather, when the trees are covered with icicles and snow, and it seems almost impossible for any gnats, spiders, and other minute insects (on which the bird exists) to be about, the wonder is how the little Gold-crest finds sufficient food to live upon. But as soon as the thaw sets in, he is as lively as ever, and, very often, within a week he may be heard singing.

Now, with regard to capturing these mites, I know of no kind of trap in which they can be caught, and I think it would be an absolute waste of time to attempt to set one for a Golden Wren. Their habit of keeping so much in plantations (generally of fir trees), and continually moving from one tree to another, prevents a trap from being used with any success. I, however, by thinking the matter out and thoroughly studying their habits, have overcome the difficulty, and I think I may safely say that I can claim to be the only person who has made the capture of the Gold-crest practically a certainty. I use an ordinary fishing rod, and with it I have caught as many as seven or eight in a day.

No doubt there are many of my readers who will think a fishing rod for catching birds sounds absurd, and I have no doubt people wonder what on earth I can be doing, when they see me holding a fishing rod upright in the middle of a fir-wood ; they know I am not fishing —perhaps they think I have escaped from an asylum.

Be that as it may, the thing is a thorough success, and, of course, I don't mind what strangers think.

I will now tell you how to proceed. From September to the middle of October is the best time to get them, as the birds are then almost clean moulted, and there are plenty of small insects, such as spiders, small flies, moths, etc., still to be got, to feed them on when caught. Get a light, five-jointed fishing rod : to the end of the top joint fasten a straight piece of wire (steel), as thick as the ordinary wire used for cage fronts ; file off the wire gradually, until the end, which will be farthest from the rod when fixed, is not thicker than a horsehair ; on this part of the wire place a very little holly-bark lime; the wire being steel and filed so thin, the result is that, as soon as you touch the bird, and it flutters in its endeavour to escape, the wire springs backwards and forwards with it, so that its chances of escape are very remote. As soon as your rod is fixed together, and the wire limed at the tip, take a ramble in any good-sized wood of larch firs, or, in fact, any species of fir, and you will not be long before you come across the Gold-crests, which are almost certain to be accompanied by several Tits and Creepers ; stand quietly, and you will soon see a Gold Crest hanging to the outside bough of a tree, or perhaps on a fir cone, but the next minute he will be on another branch ; hold the rod up, and quietly follow him until you get the wire fairly close to the bird ; don't attempt to dab the wire on him until you have a clear view of him ; as soon as you get the wire within three or four inches of the bird, quickly dab the wire against him, and I will forgive him if he gets away.

These birds are very fearless, so much so that I have on several occasions had to disjoint my rod, and have used merely the top joint, wherewith to catch the bird. If he should be on a low bough, use two joints of the rod ; as he works higher up the tree, you can add another joint, and so on. I need hardly say that the operator requires a very steady arm.

As soon as the bird is caught, it must be promptly supplied with flies, &c., or it will soon sicken and die. Gold-crests will feed on the flies and spiders given to them, within a very few minutes after being placed in the cage, but, like all other soft-bills, will not touch any compound. As to mealworms, they won't even look at them. I have given small ones to them as an inducement to feed, also I have tried them cut up in small pieces, but it was no good, and I never had a Gold-crest that would eat them. If they would, the bother of getting flies, etc., could be dispensed with,—to a certain extent only, for I don't think they could digest the mealworms for very long; they must have their natural food of insects from time to time. If these insects are mixed with preserved yolk of egg, and a little crushed tea biscuit, slightly moistened, they soon begin to eat the food; but I never use the yolk of hard boiled egg, although after a a time they will readily eat it, for I have found that they do not assimilate it so easily as the preserved yolk. If dried ants' eggs be used, they should be scalded in hot water, and squeezed out again before being given to them. Personally, I think dried ants' eggs as a food for any bird are useless, for there cannot be an atom of nourishment in them. If you were to take a bushel of them, and subject them to great pressure, there would be no moisture got out of them. If those who delight in keeping the various beautiful insectivorous birds could obtain fresh ants' eggs as easily as the dried can be got, then keeping soft-bills successfully would be made easy enough, but, as it is, we must find the best substitute.

The staple food which I have found best for the Gold-crest, and, in fact all the delicate species of soft-bills, I make up as follows:—Half a teaspoonful of preserved yolk of egg, and a teaspoonful of crushed tea biscuit, mixed with half a teaspoonful of the white of a hard boiled egg—which is best pressed through a fine cullender, as the small particles so formed are easily mixed; the whole to be slightly damped with hot water so as to make it into a crumbly state.

By way of a change I give occasionally a very small quantity of crissel, and mix half a teaspoonful of the biscuit, and some very fine stale bread crumbs, with the white of egg, as stated above.

My readers will note that this is a comparatively plain diet, but I have found by long experience that the plainer the diet, coupled with plenty of exercise, the better the birds will thrive. I do not believe in giving masses of hard-boiled yolk of egg, sponge cake, German paste, raw meat, etc. The latter is very bad if used freely. Very fine crissel is far better, and safer to use, than meat in its raw state.

With regard to the species under consideration, there is one very important point I should like to draw attention to before concluding, namely, exercise. Insectivorous birds must have it, and plenty of it, for it is almost impossible to keep them much over a year when confined wholly to a cage. There are, we know, exceptions to every rule, but, generally speaking, the birds go off in fits, brought on by being overfed, coupled with deficiency of exercise. Birds such as the Gold-crest, Long-tailed Tit, Blackcap, and the smaller Warblers, are most prone to these fits; also, I might add, the Greater and Lesser-spotted Woodpecker, but, strange to say, not so the Green Woodpecker.

If we go to Nature for a lesson, we soon see how this is. If we catch a wild bird, and examine the condition it is in, what do we find ? We find that it is not fat, but in good condition only ; this means that the breast is well covered with muscle, and there is just a little fat in the hollow of the breast bone. The bird has to hunt after and capture small insects, which requires an enormous amount of activity in the course of the day.

Now compare this with the condition of the bird in the cage. We find, as a rule, its tin full of food, and as soon as this is emptied it is refilled. The bird simply hops down, feeds, and hops back on to its perch, and so gets positively fat; and this state of things cannot go on or long. Therefore, I maintain that an aviary is indispensable for all who keep Golden Wrens and similar birds. PERCY F. M. GALLOWAY.

FOREIGN BIRDS AT THE ZOO.

(*Continued from page 251.*)

THE EMERALD BIRD OF PARADISE.

(*Paradisea apoda*).

There are but few foreign birds more familiar to the general public, *by name*, than the Emerald Bird of Paradise. Indeed, its dead body may not be an unfamiliar sight, for stuffed specimens are by no means rare. Very, very few, however, have been privileged to see the bird alive and well, and even experienced aviculturists will learn with deep interest (if they have not already done so), that there is a splendid representative of the species in the Gardens of the Royal Zoological Society. It has been my pleasure to see this beautiful creature, and so impressed was I by the sight that I feel it is only due to our members to try and fittingly chronicle its presence among us.

It is to the Insect House, then, that I must ask you to return with me. There, in front of us as we enter the door, is a large aviary, seemingly about 12 feet in length, 6 feet in width, and perhaps 8 feet high. Within this space is living, at present in perfect health, the subject of this article. The bird shows no sign of fear at our approach and boldly gives us glance for glance. A cursory examination reveals a rather large bird, about twelve inches in length, of a prevailing chestnut colour, with a few yellowish feathers protruding on either side. But let us look at the bird more closely. The predominant colour is undoubtedly a beautiful chestnut brown: the forehead appears to be black with a play of emerald as the bird moves into a different light. The crown and the upper part of the neck are very pale yellow, lemon-colour in fact, while the feathers of the throat are of burnished emerald-green. The beak and feet are greyish blue. But of course the chief beauty of the bird is the wonderful plumes which grow from its sides. Unfortunately, in the specimen before us, these are not in the best condition, and nothing like their proper length. Still, the rich golden beauty of the feathers is a decided contrast to the warm chestnut, and shows to great advantage.

Confidently jumping from perch to perch, anon leaping on the wires of the aviary and then flying to a lower branch, it is evident that the bird is already quite at home. On the floor is a bowl of what appears to be boiled rice, and close by a large pan contains water. The temperature is nearly 80 degrees. With the exception of the yellow plumes already mentioned, the creature is in splendid condition. It was otherwise when it arrived at the Gardens, however.

The attendant at the Parrot House tells us he had it there for the first month to get it used to the food and also to try and clean it somewhat. "It *was* in a state," he concludes. As the Society only received the bird on the 1st of July, this year, there is thus every excuse for any shortcomings observable in the plumage.

The card affixed to the front of the cage informs the uninitiated that the Emerald, or as they have it, the Greater Bird of Paradise, is a native of the Aru Islands. This is natural enough, but when it goes on to state that the bird was "received in exchange," one is apt to be a trifle staggered and wonder what manner of person or Society it was that wished to get rid of a Bird of Paradise! The thoughts instinctively fly to the columns of a contemporary: "Wanted to exchange an Emerald Bird of Paradise, for Canaries, live stock, *anything*." Will it ever come to this?

It may be interesting to recall that *P. apoda* has been kept for a number of years in captivity, though not, as far as I am aware, in England. Dr. Greene, in his "Birds of the British Empire," says several of the Paradisea have been kept in the Parrot House of the Zoo for a "considerable time." Whether this extends into years, or only months, is a problem left to the reader to solve.

A prominent exhibitor of foreign birds obtained a specimen some years ago, but unfortunately, owing to it having been wrongly fed before coming into his possession, the bird died. A gentleman in Calcutta has two of these birds, which he has kept for two years in perfect health and condition in large cages in his sitting room.

But undoubtedly the most successful instance is that of a gentleman who resided in China many years ago, who kept an Emerald Bird of Paradise (among a magnificent collection of the rarest foreign birds obtainable), for over nine years!

In Bennett's "Wanderings in New South Wales," Vol. II., an exceedingly valuable account is given of this bird. Unfortunately it is far too long to reproduce here, but a few extracts may not be uninteresting. "This elegant creature . . has an arch and impudent look; it dances about when a visitor approaches the cage, and seems delighted at being made an object of admiration." The bird moulted from May to August of each year, and washed regularly twice daily. "After having performed its ablutions, it throws the delicate feathers up nearly over its head, the quills of which feathers have a peculiar structure, so as to enable the bird to produce this object." These plumes are cleaned by being separately passed gently through the bill, the short brown wings being steadily flapped the while. It was fed on "boiled rice mixed with soft egg, together with plantains and living insects of the grasshopper tribe."

I cannot do better than conclude this article by the following extract, culled from a very old book in my possession: "When the bird is living and healthy, no pen can describe the varied and changeful beauties that develop themselves at every moment, for the creature seems to comprehend within its own single form the united beauties of all the other members of the feathered tribe. There is delicacy of shape, grace of movement and elegance of form, which alone would render it a most beautiful bird. But in addition to all these qualities, it possesses plumage which in one part glitters with all the dazzling gem-like hues of the humming-bird's wing, in another, is soft, warm, and delicately tinted, and in another is dyed with a rich intensity of colouring that needs a strong light to bring out its depth of power. Yet more, the torrent of graceful softly tinted plumes that flow with such luxuriant redundance of changeful curves over the body, are in themselves sufficient to place the Emerald Bird of Paradise in the first rank of beauty."

If all goes well, there promises to be a sight at that Insect House next summer, worth travelling the length of the United Kingdom to see. J. A. SWAN.

THE CARPENTERS OF THE WOODS.

Often heard, but seldom seen, are those highly interesting but shy birds, the Woodpeckers of our native land. Until recent years, it was thought by aviculturists generally, that to keep the Carpenters of the Woods in captivity was an impossibility: but that idea has been almost dispelled, for it has been shown that with care and judicious treatment all three of the species found in this country, (the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, the Greater Spotted Woodpecker, and the Green Woodpecker), may be successfully reared from the nest on ordinary insectivorous food, and kept in splendid condition for a long period. The Woodpeckers shown at the Crystal Palace Show of February, 1902, may be mentioned in proof of my statement.

I have kept all three species, but not with the success that some fellow fanciers have had, notably Messrs. Maxwell, Galloway, and Dewhurst. The last-named gentleman showed me, when I saw his wonderful collection of British Birds, his grand old Greater Spotted, looking as smart as possible, after a captivity of at least three years. The Lesser Spotted in Mr. Maxwell's possession, could not appear in better condition if it were in its native haunts. I do not know if Mr. Galloway has succeeded in bringing his Green through the moult; but, knowing him to be capable of wonders where insectivorous birds are concerned, I fully expect it to be still in the land of the living, in fine form and quite ready to do battle on the show bench again. I think the Green Woodpecker requires more care than the others.

I consider the Woodpeckers, when hand-reared from the nest, to be very interesting and attractive cage birds. I have never possessed a wild-caught specimen, and would expect such to be most difficult to keep alive, and almost impossible to tame. To those desirous ot keeping these birds, I would certainly suggest a hand-reared specimen. If one wishes to rear Woodpeckers from the nest, I am given to understand that they should be taken when only a few days old, even before the eyes are open.

As the three species are all residents in this country, either may be selected as a pet: but to a beginner, because cheaper to buy, easier to obtain, and hardier of constitution, I would suggest that *Dendrocopus major*, as the Greater Spotted is called by ornithologists, should be the first species chosen. This is a beautiful bird, nearly as large as a Thrush, with lovely markings of black and white. The male possesses, in addition, a crimson nape, well defined. I have found this bird as hardy as possible, and quite as easy to keep in good condition as a Thrush or Blackbird, on such food as biscuit-meal, nuts, sunflower and other seeds, with mealworms occasionally, and blackbeetles when procurable.

If the Lesser Spotted (*Dendrocopus minor*) is the bird obtained, this being about the size of a Wheatear, and not so hardy in constitution as *Dendrocopus major*, more attention must naturally be bestowed upon the sprightly little fellow; who will, if sufficient care be taken, become quite a charming pet and very tame. I have found this tameness of the Woodpeckers quite a striking feature; and have known them so tame that they would call to one a note of welcome and recognition, and, when let out of the cage, delight in running over their owner's shoulders and even follow him about the house. The Lesser Spotted will thrive capitally on such food as is given to most of our smaller insectivorous birds in captivity. This delightful and quaint little fellow, our smallest Woodpecker, is very similar in appearance to the Greater Spotted, but the crimson patch which the male possesses is larger in proportion, and found on the crown of the head instead of at the nape.

The Green Woodpecker (*Gecinus viridus*), known locally as Hewbird, Rain-bird, Popinjay, etc., when full grown is nearly as large as a pigeon, and of a dull sap green colour above, shading to a pretty rich yellow toward the tail and under the body. The red markings, which are a distinctive mark of sex in our English species, are in this, our largest Woodpecker, of a duller colour, which I have heard described as carmine. In addition to the crown marking, which both sexes possess, (the hen in a less degree as to both size and brightness), the male has a red moustachial mark at the base of each cheek. This latter mark is found in the female, but the colour of the feathers in her case is black, not red.

The haunts of the Woodpeckers, whether Spotted or Green, are similar. Forest, wood, park and orchard, being of necessity their abode, as their food is obtained almost entirely from the trees: their long wonderful tongue, with its hardened tip, picking up insects incessantly. They build their nests in a hollow, tunnelled in a tree showing signs of decay. The eggs are from four to eight in number and of a white colour. They are deposited at the terminal end of the tunnel, which is there rounded out and made larger to furnish sufficient room for the young family.

The flight of the Green Woodpecker is certainly heavy and perhaps awkward, and I have no doubt many ramblers, unacquainted with bird life, have mistaken it for a Woodpigeon, or some similar bird. On the ground, the Woodpecker's progress is by a series of jerking hops, which remind one very forcibly of a frog. The same kind of progress is made when the bird ascends a tree in search of insects; and the spiral route taken is very noticeable; as well as the position kept by the birds, which is with head pointing up, never down, and the stiff feathers of the tail acting all the while as a support for the weight of the body.

When these birds are kept in cages I find perches quite needless, as the birds never use them; preferring, if nothing better is provided, to sleep crouching on the floor in some secluded corner.

If a strip of cork be placed at the back of the cage, the bird will amuse itself during the day by hopping up and down in the manner previously mentioned, and it will tap away quite merrily without doing any harm to the cage, and then, when night comes, it will sleep clinging to the bark. I have found that a piece of cork rolled round to imitate a hollow tree is appreciated by my pets, and used by them quite readily as a roosting place. Should the exposed part of the cage be made of wood, it will be soon splintered, for even little *Dendrocopus minor*, as I have experienced, can do damage to the extent of several shillings in as many minutes.

C. COOPER.

THE STONECHAT.

I have frequently wondered why this brightly coloured little bird is not more often seen on the Show bench, for as regards beauty of plumage it compares very favourably with such favourites as the Redstart, and has the advantage of being far hardier—being a resident species. In the spring an adult cock has a glossy jet black head and throat, with a pure white collar; reddish-brown breast; the flights and tail a very dark brown with lighter tips and margins. Bill and legs black. In the autumn the head and throat feathers are tipped with brown. The Stonechat frequents commons where plenty of thick furze abounds, and is also very partial to straggling bramble and other low bushes, where he may be seen perched upon the topmost twig spreading and closing his fan-like tail and uttering a sharp "cluck-cluck"—particularly when alarmed. If you can contrive to get close to the bush upon which he is perching, he will make a dive as though to alight on the ground at the foot of the bush, but in reality he will fly close to the ground on to the next bush, where you will find him perched on the topmost twig as before.

In selecting a specimen in the spring which you intend eventually for an exhibition bird, you should choose one with a dense black head, pure white collar, and the breast colour as deep as possible, not forgetting that it should be a large and shapely bird. I am assuming a number of birds can be had for selection, but personally I have never had the opportunity of any number to choose from—the most I think has been four.

Bird-shop keepers as a rule do not seem to think it worth their while to get Stonechats—or, as they call them, "Furze Chats"—probably for two reasons; firstly, there would not be much demand for them, and secondly, the difficulty experienced, and the expense and patience required, in "meating-off," and keeping until a customer comes along. I am strongly of opinion, from my own experience, that an old cock Stonechat in the Springtime is without exception the most difficult bird to "meat-off" of all the soft bills, and in the Autumn, after the moult, both young and old are almost as bad. I do not think it possible to satisfactorily "meat-off" an adult Stonechat either in spring or autumn under a month and sometimes longer, and a great deal of patience, and an unlimited supply of mealworms will be required. For the first ten days or so I give at least thirty mealworms a day, mixed with hard boiled egg (the yolk only at first), then twenty per day for the next week or so. After that time I reduce the daily allowance of mealworms as the bird more readily eats the food. The food I have found most suitable is hard boiled egg, soaked ants' eggs and crushed sweet biscuit in equal parts. When thoroughly "meated off," about three mealworms a day are all that is required except in the depth of winter, when the quantity should be doubled. Stonechats are also very fond of beetles. Being a resident species and of amiable disposition, several Stonechats could be kept in a fairly sheltered out-door aviary throughout the winter—but under those conditions it is necessary to increase the supply of mealworms to eight or ten a day—giving a few of these as late in the afternoon as possible, and leaving the others for the first feed in the morning.

Another somewhat difficult task is to get the bird steady enough for the Show Bench, and the best way is to have the cage in a room where persons pass frequently, and to talk to the bird and offer a mealworm occasionally, or a spider. Having once got a Stonechat well caged and steady, I think any exhibitor would find him a very desirable cage pet, and a useful addition to his team of exhibition birds. The hen is dull in plumage, and has nothing in particular to recommend her being kept.

S. A. SANDY.

FOREIGN BIRDS AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

The recent Show at the Crystal Palace, so far as foreign birds were concerned, was remarkable for two things—the *exceeding badness* of the classification and the magnificent quality of the exhibits. There were 93 entries, a great advance on last year, due, no doubt, to the fact that the exhibition was held in a tent, and the temperature kept at a "living" heat. Of these 93, however, nearly 20 were absent, so only just over 70 birds competed. It may be stated that, of the 93 entries, 55 were owned by members of our Club. Of the 29 prizes awarded our members won 18; of the eight specials we took seven ; and of the 29 honours we won 16. It will thus be seen that the members of the Foreign Bird Club practically made the Show, both in quantity and quality. Indeed, without our support, hardly one of the classes would have stood. Two classes were cancelled, 77 for Java Sparrows, and 78 for Common Avadavats. Granting separate classes to these birds is an experiment hardly likely to be repeated.

Class 73. *Amazons and Grey Parrots, Macaws, Cockatoos, and Parrots, including Lories.* 1st, Mrs. Hecker's splendid pair of Grey Parrots, looking well and in fine condition : well deserved their position. Their owner was also awarded the special prize for best bird exhibited by a lady. 2nd, Mr. Babbs, a Blue and Yellow Macaw, a good specimen, not in best feather. 3rd, Miss Pauline Brown, Red & Blue Macaw, nice bird but tail poor. 4th, Mr. Shorrock, good hen Grey. V.H.C., Mrs. Barnes' Amazon and Mr. Husdon's Rose-crested Cockatoo. H.C., Mr. Cushny's Blue-eyed Cockatoo, looking unwell when we saw it. C., Mrs. Brietkrenty's Grey. Two Amazons and another Grey completed the class. There were two absentees.

Class 74. *Budgerigars.* 1st, Mr. Osbaldeston's pair, splendid birds in magnificent condition ; easy winners. 2nd and 3rd, Mr. Thorne's pairs, both beaten in condition. 4th, Mr. W. B. Smith's pair, not looking very bright. V.H.C,, Mr. Wood. Two absentees in this class also.

Class 75. *Any other variety of Parrakeets and Lorrikeets.* 1st, Mr. Howes' Rock Pepler, well deserved to win ; a fine bird, but cage too small. 2nd, Mr. Osbaldeston's Crimson Wing, beautiful bird, not in full feather on head. 3rd, Mr. Storey's celebrated Lovebirds, not so smart as usual and beaten in quality ; hen's plumage very rough. 4th, Mr. Husdon's Lorikeets, nice exhibit, but loose in condition. V.H.C., Mr. Hawkins' Many-coloured Parrakeet, an unusual postion for this bird, but tail feathers were in a bad state [H.C., Miss C.

Rosa Little, nice pair of Redrumps, head feathers lost, or otherwise must have been much higher up. Four absentees.

Class 76. *Waxbills, Mannikins, Combassous Weavers, and any Whydahs.* 1st, Mr. Hawkins' Red-faced Finch; an unique exhibit, but hardly beautiful. 2nd, Mr. Hawkins' Rufous-tailed Finches, in splendid condition; we should have reversed these awards. 3rd, Mr. Townsend's beautiful little Lavender Finches well deserved their position. 4th, Miss Laskey's Paradise Whydah, very steady, in good colour, and well shown. V. H. C., Mr. Hawkins' Gold-breasted Waxbills and Mr. Smith's Cordon Bleus; both pretty exhibits, and the former especially in fine feather. V. H. C., Mrs. Skey's Orange Bishop, in full colour, and Mr. Cushny's Crimson-crowned Weaver, also in full colour, and a fine bird. C., Mrs. Skey's cock Combassou, perfect tint; could not expect to do much in such company. A Firefinch, looking very ill, another pair of Cordon Bleus, and a pair of Zebra Finches, completed the class. Two absentees.

Classes 77 *and* 78 cancelled.

Class 79. *Any other variety of Seed-eating bird.* 1st, Mr. Hawkins' pair of Cuba Finches, hen's plumage rather rough when we saw it. 2nd, Mr. Henderson's well-known Green Cardinal, beautiful bird, spoilt by one tail feather being out of place. 3rd, Mr. Osbaldeston's Olive Cubans, pair, not in best condition. 4th, Mr. Hawkins' pair of Pintail Nonpareils, nice birds, hen not perfect. V.H.C., Mr. Turnber's Military Starling, a nice bird, tame, in good colour; deserved its position. Mr. Hawkins' Bicheno Finches, splendid pair in perfect condition, should have been higher up. H.C., Mr. Hawkins' Gouldian Finch and Mr. Clark's African Seed-eater. C., Mr. Hawkins' Parrot Finches hardly deserved it on account of poor condition. Cock had lost all toes on the right foot. Several absentees. A Crimson-wing Parrakeet was entered in this class, and saved itself from disqualification by not putting in an appearance.

Class 80. *Insectivorous, any variety.* It is impossible to mention this class without using superlatives. Wonderful in quality and quantity, and undoubtedly the best ever seen at any Show. Seven of the eight specials offered were won by the birds comprised in it. Mr. Hawkins signalised his entry into the Insectivorous Classes by sweeping the board, showing birds as perfect as they were rare.

1st and Special, 2nd and Special, 3rd and Special, and extra 4th and Special, Mr. Hawkins. Purple Sun Bird took the lead, simply perfect; Yellow-winged Sugar Bird followed, in full colour: rarity alone could have given the winner its position over this bird; Silver-eared Mesias, fine pair in splendid trim; Blue-winged Sivas, nearly perfect, but lost in condition. 4th and Special, Mr. Russell Humphrys' Rufous-bellied Niltava Flycatcher, a beautiful creature, in splendid health and very steady. V.H.C. and Special, Mr. Swan's White-capped Tanager, V.H.C., Mr. Townsend's Tri-coloured Tanager and an unknown Tanager. H.C. and Special, Mr. Osbaldeston's Shâma, nice bird, in splendid condition, and very tame. H.C., Mr. Gilroy's Indian Mynah, 2nd in this class last year, outclassed this time. C. and Special, Mr. Townsend's Yellow-winged Sugar Bird in winter plumage, but in good condition. Here we have an interesting problem. Two Yellow-winged Sugar Birds —one in full colour and one out of colour—both in splendid feather. Yet the bird in colour gains a high award, the one out of colour a low one. Should Judges allow colour to influence them to such an extent? C., Mr. Townsend, another rare unknown little Tanager. There were also another Indian Mynah and a Military Starling in this class. They were both nice birds, but the competition was too much for them. Hard lines! It is difficult to criticise the awards in such a class, but we should certainly have placed the Niltava Flycatcher first. This bird and Mr. Townsend's unknown V.H.C. Tanager were the two rarest in the Show. The Abraham's Trophy was awarded to the Blue-winged Sivas. We should have given it to Mr. Humphrys' bird, for this species has probably never been seen in England before. Mr. Townsend's Tanager puzzled all present and it deserved a better fate that V.H.C. The White-capped Tanager might have been higher up — but our sympathies are with the judge.

Class 81. *Any variety Foreign Bird (limit).* 1st, Miss Laskey's perfect little Rufous Grassfinch, very cheap at a sovereign. 2nd and 3rd, Mr. Hawkins' Grassfinch and hen Shâma. The latter quickly claimed at catalogue price. 4th, Mr. Osbaldeston's Zosterops, poor condition, and said to be Chestnut Finches in the catalogue. V.H.C., Mr. Hawkins' Grey Singing-finch in perfect condition. H.C., Mr. Hawkins' hen Gouldian, and C. same gentleman, pair of Orange Cheeks. A cock indoor-moulted Nonpareil and a pair of White Javas were also in this class.

On the whole the judging was fairly well received.

FOREIGN BIRDS AT THE BARNSTAPLE SHOW, OCTOBER 28th and 29th.

Although the Barnstaple Show ranks next to the Palace and Dairy for Poultry and Pigeons—as regards cage birds (British and Foreign) it is a long way behind the former. Probably people think the journey to North Devon too long for delicate birds, and apparently there are very few fanciers in the West of England.

There were four classes, viz. :—Single Large; Single Small ; Pairs or Groups Large ; Pairs or Groups Small.

Mr. W. Young, of Barnstaple, was the principal exhibitor, and carried off most of the prizes. Indeed, but for his support the classes would probably have been cancelled. His exhibits included King, Half-moon, Pennant, and Red-rump Parrakeets ; and Cockatiels, as well as other birds.

A Toucan and a Bee-eater, both hown by Mr. C. P

Arthur, were amongst the most interesting of the exhibits.

Every care was taken of the cage birds, which were staged in a large room opening off the Market Hall, thoroughly warmed, without being overheated or draughty.

A. BULLOCK WEBSTER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GREEN SINGING-FINCH—GOLDFINCH HYBRIDS.

SIR,—I think perhaps the following note may be of interest to those members who care for hybrids. In one of my aviaries I have a hen English Goldfinch and a cock Green Singing-finch. Both birds are in fine health and plumage. This summer they have nested twice. The first nest was built close to a Violet Dove's nest, and the two birds sat in perfect harmony within a few inches of each other. Four or five eggs were laid, and the Goldfinch sat well, but unfortunately the nest was destroyed by some other bird. A second nest was made later, and three young ones hatched. One was drowned just as it left the nest. The other two are fine young birds, now over two months old, and one of them is beginning to sing nicely. In size and shape they are rather like a hen Chaffinch. Both birds are showing yellow and orange in the forehead, chin, and wings. I think they should be very handsome in a short time. The parents were most attentive to the young ones, and probably that is why they are such strong birds. I believe the young one that was drowned was the finest of the three, but I was away from home at the time and did not see it.

R. ALDERSON.

Wanted—Pair of Lavender Finches, young ones preferred; also one hen Zebra Finch.

Miss T. SAYWELL, Bromsgrove College, Worcs.

NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD AND MULE CLUB.

Committee Meeting, held at Headquarters on the 13th November, 1902.

Present: Mr. Pollard (Vice-Chairman), Messrs. Plumbridge, Sandy, Frostick, Jones, Vale, C. Cooper. Maxwell, Morgan, and the Hon. Secretary.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and letters were read from Mr. Hazell, Mr. Howe, Mr. Browning, Miss Saywell, Mr. Weston (3), Mr. Ramsden (2), Mr. Dunn, and Mr. Norman.

The application on behalf of the Leicester C. B. Society was again before the Committee. It was proposed by Mr. Sandy and seconded by Mr. Vale that we grant two Gold Medals. (Carried).

The application on behalf of the Crewe O. & C. B. F. Association was next considered. They were also granted one Gold and one Silver Medal.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the L. & P. O. Society *re* the Crystal Palace Show next February, asking if the Committee would care to offer the Club's Medals for competition amongst their members at that Show. Various views being expressed, it was decided to send a reply to Mr. Ramsden.

A long letter was read from Mr. Ramsden containing a scheme by which our Society might affiliate with the L. & P. O. Society, by submitting to their rules and regulations and paying an annual fee of 5/-. It was unanimously resolved to lay the letter on the table.

It was agreed that in the case of all those members who have not paid their subscription for the current year, the Club Magazine be withheld.

The Hon. Secretary was instructed to publish a further set of Standards for the members' approval or otherwise.

The following lady and gentlemen were duly elected members of the Club:

Proposed by Mr. Browning and seconded by Mr. Vale—

Mr. Jackson, of Milnthorpe; and Mr. White, of Newton Abbott, S. Devon.

Miss Saywell,
Pro. by Hon. Sec. ; sec. by Mr. Maxwell.
Mr. Hazell ,, Mr. C. Cooper ,, ,,
Mr. Howe ,, Hon. Sec. ,, Mr. Vale.

Mr. Pollard kindly presented the Club with a Club Medal.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the meeting.

W. A. LOTT, *Hon. Sec.*,
NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD & MULE CLUB,
103, Cheapside, London, E.C.

FORTHCOMING SHOWS AT WHICH N. B. B. & M. C. MEDALS ARE OFFERED FOR COMPETITION.

Hull—Dec. 5 & 6: 2 Gold.
Gateshead & Dist.—Dec. 12 & 13: 1 Gold & 1 Silver, or 3 Silver.
Barnsley—
Leicester C. B. Society—Jan. 8 & 9, 1903: 2 Gold.
Crewe Ornithological Society—Jan. 24, 1903: 1 Gold & 1 Silver.

STANDARDS.

SNOW BUNTING.

Steadiness	40
Size	10
Quality and condition	40
Staging	10
	100

LAPLAND BUNTING—Same as Snow.

GREAT or OX-EYE, COLE, BLUE, MARSH and LONG-TAILED or BOTTLE TITS.

Steadiness	20
Size	15
Cap bright and full of quality	15
Markings clean cut and well-defined	15
Lovely quality throughout and pink of condition expected at first class shows	25
Staging	10
	100

MEADOW PIPIT.

Steadiness	20
Size	20
Ground colour immaterial as it varies with age of bird, but feather must be of the very finest quality, and markings must stand well out	30
Condition (missing claws being especially objectionable)	20
Staging	10
	100

This bird shall be disqualified when shown as a Lark in Lark classes.

TREE PIPIT.

Same as for Meadow Pipit; this bird shall be disqualified when shown as a Lark in Lark classes.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

It would be very nice if we could have an illustration in the first number of our new volume next March. I do not know whether there are any artists among our members. I should be glad to receive drawings or photographs suitable for reproduction.

We shall probably be making considerable alterations in the outward appearance of "Bird Notes" with the commencement of the new volume. Will, therefore, members who have suggestions to make kindly forward them to me? I will see that they are duly laid before the Council.

Is the name "Bird Notes" really the best that could be selected ? It is certainly a very inoffensive name, and I am not sure that a better one has yet been suggested, but I cannot help thinking that it should be possible to devise a more striking and distinctive title.

I invite suggestions on this and all other subjects. If only the members would grumble a little more, they would help greatly. It is so difficult to find out what our members like or dislike.

The five numbers of "Foreign Bird Notes" should be bound with Vol. I. of "Bird Notes" in order to make the book complete, as the two magazines are paged consecutively—pages 1 to 92 consisting of "Foreign Bird Notes." The Index, to be published in February next, will comprise both "F. B. Notes" and "Bird Notes." The published price of "Foreign Bird Notes" is 6d. per copy—but I shall be pleased to send the set of five issues to members of our Club, or of the N. B. B. & M. C., post free for half price, viz., 1/3, to enable them to complete their volumes. This offer will be open for a limited time only, as the stock of some issues is low.

HORATIO R. FILLMER,
Hon. Sec. FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
52, Ship Street, Brighton.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

Mr. ALLEN SILVER, 43, Gabriel's Hill, Maidstone.
Mr. A. BULLOCK WEBSTER, King's Close, Barnstaple.
Mr A. C. ROLLS, Vancourtland, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.
Miss THEODORA SAYWELL, The College, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.
Mr. GEORGE COCHRANE, St. Boswell's, Scotland.
Mr. CHARLES E. THOMAS, 362, Mare St., Hackney, N.E.
Mrs. E. OLLARD, Conway, Palace Rd., East Molesey, Sry.
Mr. J. L. T. DOBBIN, St. James's Gate, Dublin.
Mr. G. W. TAYLOR, 49, Dawson Street, Dublin.
Mr. CHARLES HARRIS, Naturalist, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Mr. FRANK C. PORTE, 28, South Mall, Cork.

Mr. J. F. Dickson, Walworth, Grand Canal Harbour, Dublin.
Dr. C. S. Simpson, 2, Portland Road, Hove.
Hon. M. C. Hawke, Wighill Park, Tadcaster.
Mr. A. J. Salter, Thame, Oxon.
Mr. C. Castle Sloane, Oat Hall, nr. Crawley, Sussex.
Mr. J. W. Tidey, 5, Cambridge Road, Hastings.

NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED.

Mr. Ernest E. Little, 16, Great Quebec Street, Montagu Square, W.
Mrs. Skey, Selby Villa, Thornhill Road, Croydon.
Proposed by Mr. Frostick.
Mr. J. Collis, 83, Brynland Avenue, Bishopston, Bristol.
Miss C. Rosa Little, Baronshalt, The Barons, East Twickenham.
Mrs. Cross, The Manor House, Sleaford.
Mr. S. G. Waldram, F. S. S., Mona House, Queen St., Redcar. *Proposed by* Mr. Swan.
Miss E. Brooksbank, Middleton-on-the-Wolds, Driffield.
Proposed by Mr. Thorpe.
Rev. Richard H. Wilmot, Poulton Vicarage, Fairford.
Proposed by Mr. Fillmer.
Mrs. J. Pond, 174, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool.
Proposed by Mr. Osbaldeston.
Miss M. Hamilton, 120, Stephen's Green W., Dublin.
Mr. P. H. Kenny, 55, Drumcondra Road, Dublin.
Mrs. Day, The Rectory, Killeagh, Co. Cork.
Proposed by Mr. Philip.
Mr. George Moss, 51, Wellington St., Loughborough.
Proposed by Mr. Oakey.

MEDALS WON THIS SEASON.

Norwich, October, 1902. Bronze, Mr. F. J. Yallop.
,, ,, ,, Silver, Mr. F. Howe.
Manchester, October, 1902. Bronze, Mr. Osbaldeston.
Nottingham, November, 1902. Bronze, Mr. H. B. Smith.
Dublin, November, 1902. Bronze, Mr. Andrew Philip.
Sligo, November, 1902. Bronze, Mr. George Bell.
Royal Aquarium, Nov., 1902. Silver, Mr. Hawkins.
,, ,, ,, ,, Mr. Townsend.
,, ,, ,, Bronze, Dr. Hopkinson.
,, ,, ,, ,, Mrs. Cooper.

Medal Granted.

Cambridge, 10th & 11th December. F.B.C. Classification A. One bronze medal. Judge, Mr. Camps.

OUR DEFICIT.

To the Members of the Foreign Bird Club.

I have a much brighter report to make this month respecting our Deficit. Several birds have now been sold and some contributions have also been received. Will these members please accept our grateful thanks? There are still some birds unsold, however, and for these I shall be pleased to receive offers. If any other members would like to help by presenting birds, or contributions of cash, they will be deeply appreciated. If only *each* member would assist a little, we should soon be out of our Treasurer's debt.

J. A. Swan,
87, Lower Kennington Lane, S.E.

	Purchased by	*Amount realised.* £	s.	d.
Mrs Dutton's Bengalese ..	Mrs Mortimer ..	0	7	6
Mr Fillmer's Canary	Mr Storey ..	0	5	0
Mr Thorpe's Parrot	Mr Philip ..	1	0	0
Mr Swan's Weaver	Mr Alston ..	0	6	0
Mr Storey's Canary and Cage	Mr Swan ..	0	7	6

The following contributions have been received :—

	£	s.	d.
Mr Acutt	0	2	6
Anon.	0	2	6
Countess Baldelli	0	5	0
Miss Theodora Saywell	0	4	0
Mr A. Jones	0	1	6
	£3	1	6

	£	s.	d.
Original amount of deficit	£7	0	7
Amount received as above ..	3	1	6
Sum still due	£3	19	1

The undermentioned birds are still unsold :—

Offers.	*Presented by*
Red-billed Weavers (fine pair) ..	Mr A. Philip.
Aurita Doves	Mr G. Alston.
Cat Bird (hen)	Mr H. R. Fillmer
Budgerigars (young, sex unknown) ..	Miss Hopkinson.
Zebra Finches (pair)	Mr J. A. Swan.

Mr Frostick has kindly presented ten of his little books, "Meating off and Feeding Soft-bills," to the fund. Will ten members take one each? They are only sixpence per copy.

BIRDS FROM THE GAMBIA.

By E. HOPKINSON.

(*Continued from page 272.*)

WEAVERS. I got a large number of these, all in winter plumage at the time of capture, but now mostly in full colour. The majority have turned out to be Crimson-crowned Bishops *(Pyromelana flammiceps)*, all cocks. What can be the explanation of there not being one hen among the twenty odd birds, all caught out of colour and practically all at the same time? There must be a preponderance of hens, as I suppose, like other Weavers, one cock mates with several hens, and if so, where were the hens when my boy caught this lot? Perhaps, when out of colour, the sexes separate, and the flocks consist only of one sex or the other. As regards the time of the change of colour, it appears to vary a good deal in different individuals, for some of the earliest of my birds began to show red before I left Bathurst in July, while a few are still nearly all brown with but few red feathers. The colours also vary a great deal, a rich scarlet in the majority, but in others a definite orange is found—the colours varying at different ages, I expect.

Before I could distinguish the various species, that is, while they were still out of colour, I mentally divided them up into three groups :—(1) Small, (2) Large and (3) Larger Bishops ; of these the small (with two exceptions) have proved to be Orange Bishops *(P. franciscana)*, and as half of those I have kept show no signs of colour, I suppose I may consider them hens, and the pairs as true pairs ; in confirmation of this is also the fact that, this year, the Bishops have made much more perfect nests than in former years, the help of the hens being said to be absolutely necessary for the proper completion of the work.

The two exceptions in this group are probably Napoleons, but being still out of colour I cannot be certain ; they differ from the immature Orange Bishops in that the dark centres and edges of the feathers in the former are almost black, while in the latter they are brown; the former also are darker on the crown, and have a more distinct yellow eye-streak than the Orange have.

To return for a moment to the Crimson-crowned Bishops, (my "Large Bishops"), in the redder birds, presumably the older ones, the brown edges to wing and tail feathers are much narrower than in the more orange-coloured birds, and I take it that these birds, as they advance in years, get redder and at the same time gradually lose the brown edges to the black feathers.

The "Larger Bishops" are five in number; only one has as yet come in colour, and has turned out not to be a Bishop at all, but a Yellow-backed Whydah: a beautiful bird, much more like a Bishop than a Whydah in his habits, very keen on mealworms and other insects, and continually dancing and showing off to hens, or birds he imagines to be hens, just as the Weavers do; and never, as far as I have seen, scratching on the ground like a Whydah. The other four, I thought, were hens, but as I have seen all of them sing and dance, they are probably cocks. In appearance they remind one forcibly of a hen Yellowhammer, the ground colour being almost identical in the two birds, though of course the markings differ, in the one being similar to those in other out-of-colour Weavers, and in the other of the Bunting type. I should certainly recommend anyone who comes across a large Bishop which suggests to his mind a hen Yellowhammer, to buy it as being almost certainly a most desirable addition to his aviary. A more detailed description may be useful. Below all yellowish, sparsely streaked, especially at the sides, with brown; above darker and more olive, each feather having a brown centre streak, giving an irregular mottled appearance; the head is uniformly speckled, with no suggestion even of the longitudinal markings of the Paradise and Pintailed Whydahs; the bill is brown in the non-breeding plumage, black in the full-colour stage.

Of the *Fringillidæ* I obtained two species, the GREEN SINGING FINCH and the ROCK-SPARROW *(Petronia dentata)*. The first mentioned is a common cage-bird with the natives of Bathurst, the only small bird they value as a pet; if they catch others, it is only for the white man or for the pot. Personally I am not very fond of this bird, as mine have all been such quarrelsome little beggars, so out of the dozen odd I brought home I have only kept one, and that one simply because it is rather smaller and much paler than any of the others, and may belong to a different species.

The ROCK-SPARROWS are very common round Bathurst, where one meets with them in small flocks in straggling bush along the shore and on the outskirts of the town; they are rather shy little birds and very unlike our Sparrow, which I am glad to say is unknown out there, and certainly undesired.

In size the ROCK-SPARROW is about equal to a Linnet, and in colour brown above and grey below; the throat is white, in the middle of which in most specimens is a pale yellow spot. Old birds have a definitely grey head, but the younger ones, which often lack the yellow throat-spot, have the head brown like the back, and a broad fawn eyebrow. Most of my birds were young ones and in the latter plumage, but some of them are now becoming greyer on the head and losing the distinct eyebrow, so I hope all will survive to moult into the adult plumage. In the aviary they are lively, if not showy birds, and one notices, as their most characteristic habit, the quick Wagtail-like flirting of the tail which accompanies every movement. I have not heard any song, but they have a sweet single call-note.

In conclusion, I will just mention what other birds my collection included:—Waxbills, Orange-cheek, Zebra, and Common (of the latter but a single individual). Bronze Mannikins (250 odd and not one Two-coloured among them). Cordon-bleus. Red-billed and Yellow Weavers *(Hyphantornis)*, and finally Paradise and Pin-tailed Whydahs.

THE BULLFINCH.

Pyrrhula europæa, Vieill.

The song of the wild or untutored Bullfinch is certainly not a musical triumph, though it is very soft, without unpleasant or shrill sounds. Nor is the bird capable of mocking other species. Nevertheless, when properly trained, the Bullfinch excels them all in what many think a far more desirable and wonderful accomplishment, that is, in his remarkable aptitude for learning whistling as performed by human lips, or, as it is termed, piping.

The natural call-note of the Bullfinch is in itself a piping sound; simple, short, flute-like, and easily imitated by the human lips; this simple call the bird can modulate at will a few semi-tones higher or lower. This very elementary talent has been fostered and developed by man, calling to aid the power of mimicry nascent in the bird.

At the present time the training of this bird to pipe really pretty airs has become quite a profession among the peasants in the Black Forest, Spessart Mountains, and other wooded districts of Germany, in which Bullfinches abound. They devote their attention seriously to the rearing and training of numbers of young birds every year, and dispose of them, sometimes at very remunerative prices, to the travelling dealers who supply the different markets of the civilized world.

One great point in successfully training Bullfinches to pipe lies in getting nestlings early in the season. The catcher is about their haunts at daybreak and looks out for pairs of Bullfinches feeding on the ground. It is not long before the hen is seen carrying nesting material. Now, which direction are the birds taking? At the spot where he loses sight of them, the nest hunter waits patiently until they pass a second time. Again he posts himself where they disappeared from view the second time, and so on warily, often wearily, until he can mark a tree or bush from which he can observe the building of the nest. He knows by his daily visit when the clutch of eggs is laid, when the young are being hatched, and when they must be, on the average, ten days old: the time for him to possess himself of the treasure.

These men watch the process of building because the trees are then sufficiently devoid of foliage to allow the nest to be visible, which is not likely to be the case three or four weeks later; and by following up six or eight pairs, catchers can look forward to collecting at least three dozen youngsters for rearing by hand. But oh! for the wickedness of human nature. With all his early rising, all his concealment of his movements, all his careful counting of the weeks and days for the young to be just at the right age, he is often disappointed—he cannot guard against the sneak who robs nests on the ninth day!

Now, it must not be supposed that because a first-class piping Bullfinch fetches easily five pounds sterling in London, or as much as forty dollars in New York, that a royal road to fortune has been found. The general result of a season's Bullfinch training is not always so lucrative as this might lead one to believe; for when visiting Fulda, Gelnhausen, and other places in the training districts, I ascertained that scarcely two nestlings in a hundred attain the perfection requisite to command such high figures, and the dealers have, of late years, displayed such eagerness to obtain their stock early, that the birds have not always time to complete their studies and become valuable.

But, even if that were not so, there is much to contend with. A large proportion of the young birds are females; some die early; some learn only a part of their lesson, say the first line out of four; some learn just one short ditty, whereas, a really good piper should master two airs correctly and finish his performance with a military bugle call. Extraordinary specimens will even do more than that, but they do not make their appearance every year. The majority have to be sold at low prices, and make charming pets for the bird lover of not unlimited means and who is content to enjoy but a partial fulfilment of the birds' early promises.

Yet all these birds receive the same care and attention to complete their education, which is conducted as follows. A score or so of learners, still in their nest feathers and each in a cage, are hung around a partly darkened room. Whenever the enterprising peasant has a spare moment, he enters that room and whistles with his lips the tune decided upon for that year. By the time the moult is over, the best birds have learned that tune, and are removed to another part of the cottage, where the second subject of their studies is introduced to them; viz., the military bugle call. Only a very few show aptitude enough to be promoted to another removal for the purpose of being taught a second air, when the first and the soldiers' call have been acquired by them.

Long ere this, the peasant has found out which among his team show signs of "piping to command;" he takes the cage of those most promising into his hand at all hours of the day, whistles the air, and then encourages the inmate to repeat it by coaxing him with his voice, by imitating the sound of kissing, and especially by gently rocking his head. A willing and promising pet at once hops to the front of the cage, and, puffing out his plumage, sweetly gives a call or two, and then says his lesson to the best of his knowledge. When they pipe their tunes readily in response to the manœuvres just described, they are said to "pipe to command." The sound of osculation is one of the first things Bullfinches imitate to perfection.

Of late years some improvements in teaching have been introduced. Instead of moving the head to make the birds pipe to command, the same motion is effected with the hand and extended forefinger; and instead of whistling, small bird organs are made use of, the reed pipes of which are flute-like in sound and are always of the correct pitch. Bullfinches that pipe to command are much sought after, as they make most charming pets, and great trouble is taken by the teacher to educate as many as possible to that mode of producing their music.

Early in winter, the travelling collector of Piping Bullfinches and German Canaries makes his appearance, and purchases all he can get at his price; the birds are transferred to the well-known wicker cages in which we see them later, exposed for sale in our large towns and cities.

Given a family of nestlings in good health, a bird organ, and the patience to turn the handle for half-an-hour every morning and afternoon, I do not see why our native "Bullies" should not be trained in this country with satisfactory results; perhaps it is being done, but I cannot say that English Pipers have come under my notice.

Bullfinches are getting less abundant in this country than formerly. No doubt the ready sale they find at comparatively high prices, causes a great many of them to be deprived of liberty. Even under the most favorable circumstances, Bullfinches cannot be said to be endowed with longevity; three years of cage life is rarely exceeded, after which period their arch-enemy, asthma, is very liable to seize them. Incorrect treatment and draughts carry off a great many before they reach even that age. The bright tints and glossy black become dulled, and the head feathers fall out, if the bird is not properly treated; whereas, a clean house, a bath, sound and varied food in which greenmeat and fruit figure proportionately, will keep him in excellent plumage and health. Imported birds do well on German rape seed, with a daily allowance of about twenty hemp seeds; but some juicy dainties should not be omitted.

In the aviary, one or a pair of Bullfinches will be found ornamental and amusing; they make a great show of affection, carrying feathers, etc., for building, and the female will lay a few eggs, but there it mostly stops; breeding Bullfinches in confinement is a thankless task.

On the other hand, they should be watched from time to time, to make sure that they do no harm to the other occupants of their habitation. Not all, but most of those I have thus kept, have ended by suddenly taking a dislike to some unoffending Finch or Canary, and from that moment there was no peace until one or the other was removed. A strong cock Bullfinch can do some mischief in the limited space of wood and wire, but in such a dilemma the judicious partial clipping of the wings would be justifiable, as it is not always convenient to shut him up separately. ALBERT RETTICH.

PARROTS AND PARRAKEETS.

By Dr. C. S. SIMPSON.

(Continued from page 244).

PYRRHULOPSIS.—The Masked Parrakeet (*P. personata*) and the Red Shining Parrakeet (*P. splendens*) are the only two species of their genus known in this country in confinement. Five species exist, all of which are confined to Fiji and the Friendly Islands. The Masked Parrakeet is a splendid but somewhat stupid bird. It is about eighteen inches in length, of a very rich velvety green on the head, back, and wings, the face is black, the middle of the breast yellow, and the abdomen orange. The Red Shining Parrakeet is much like the King, but the red of the breast is more crimson, and the beak is black. In both species the sexes are alike. They appear to be somewhat short-lived in captivity.

THE BROAD-TAILED PARRAKEETS (*Platycercus*) comprise seventeen species which inhabit Australia and Tasmania. About ten of these are kept as cage birds, and of these the common Rosella, or Rose-hill Parrakeet, is best known. The Broad-tails are essentially birds for the aviary, as they are capable of enduring a considerable degree of cold and are usually willing to breed, whereas in cages they are generally dull and uninteresting. Bauer's, or the Port Lincoln Parrakeet, I have found the most suitable for cage life. It is a lively but somewhat noisy bird, learns to say a few words, and is peculiarly apt at learning to whistle tunes. Bauer's, Barnard's, and the Yellow-naped Parrakeets form a little group of sub-species resembling each other, but differing considerably in appearance from the remaining Broad-tails. The beautiful Pileated Parrakeet resembles this group rather than the following species, which form a series resembling one another somewhat closely in their colours and markings. Pennant's Parrakeet (*P. elegans*) is the most splendid of these, being of a rich crimson, with cheeks, outer wing feathers, and tail feathers of blue ; the feathers of the back are black, edged with crimson. The Yellow-rumped Parrakeet (*P. flaveolus*) is marked precisely in the same way, but is yellow where the Pennant is red; it has, however, a red forehead and the throat is spotted with red : the rump and upper tail coverts are yellow both in young and adult specimens. The Adelaide Parrakeet (*P. adelaidæ*) is intermediate in colouring between the two preceding species, having far more red about the breast and abdomen than *P. flaveolus*, while the rump and upper tail coverts are red in the adult, but yellow in the young bird. It appears, therefore, that the immature *P. adelaidæ* may easily be mistaken for *P. flaveolus*, while adult specimens of the two species can be distinguished with certainty by the colour of the upper tail coverts.

The Common Rosella (*P. eximius*) and the Mealy Rosella (*P. pallidiceps*) are too well known to need description. The Stanley Parrakeet (*P. icterotis*) is one of the rarest, and is the smallest of the Broad-tails. Its prevailing colour is scarlet, and the cheeks are yellow, the feathers of the back are black edged with greenish red.

The Pileated Parrakeet (*P. pileatus*) is another very rare species. It receives its name from the deep red cap or pileum. The cheeks are yellowish green, the back dark green, and the breast and abdomen lilac.

PSEPHOTUS.—We come now to a group of Australian Parrakeets which are, in my opinion, the most beautiful and most desirable of all, namely, the Psephotus Parrakeets. Of this genus there are but five species known to exist, and four of these are occasionally kept in this country. The remaining species (*P. chrysopterygius*) is very rare, and but little seems to be known of it even in its native land.

The four species which are known in England as cage-birds are the Many-coloured Parrakeet (*P. multicolor*), the Paradisa or beautiful (*P. pulcherrimus*), the Blue-bonnet *(P. hæmatorhous* and the Red-rump (*P. hæmatonotus*). Both the Many-coloured and the Beautiful Parrakeets have the reputation of being extremely delicate: several well known authors even go so far as to say that it is almost impossible to keep them in confinement for more than a few months. The Beautiful Parrakeet I have never kept, and, as far as I am aware, no specimens have been imported for some years, but the Many-coloured is by no means so difficult to preserve as was at one time supposed. I know of several instances in which these Parrakeets have been kept for years. I kept one for a long time in a cage, and it was always in perfect health and beauty, and never ailed an hour while I had it. The Many-coloured is said to be partly insectivorous when wild, but mine would never touch animal food. On the other hand,it was extremely fond of fruit, especially apple, of which it had a liberal allowance daily; this, with canary seed, spray millet, and a little hemp, seemed to be all that was required to keep it in health. This Parrakeet is a lively and attractive bird whether in a cage or aviary, but it is rare, and specimens can but seldom be obtained. It is 12ins. in length; the general colour of the male is a bright grass green, the forehead and a band on each wing yellow, the occiput and a patch on the upper tail coverts reddish chestnut, the abdomen and thighs scarlet, the bend of the wing and underwing coverts brilliant blue. The female is far less brilliantly attired than her mate, being of a yellowish-brown colour with only an indication of the markings on the occiput and wing coverts.

The Blue-bonnet Parrakeet is not so beautiful, perhaps, as the Many-coloured, but it is even more active and amusing. Canon Dutton calls it the "Merry Andrew of Parrakeets," and considers it the most charming of all. According to my experience it is a hardy bird and requires the same treatment as the Many-coloured. It is a difficult bird to describe, the plumage presenting a variety of shades of yellowish-grey tinged with olive; the face and the edge of the wing are blue, the lower part of the breast yellow, and the abdomen crimson. The remaining species, the Red-rump Parrakeet, is quite a common bird, and has been bred in considerable numbers in captivity. It is very hardy and easily kept.

(To be continued).

THE WATER-RAIL IN CAPTIVITY.

About the end of March, 1899, my brother-in-law noticed a strange-looking bird in his garden, at Preston, a suburb of Brighton. It was seen for a day or two, and was in great danger of falling a prey to cats, although it could fly and seemed in perfect health. One cat pursued it persistently, and, to escape from this beast, it took refuge in one of the green-houses, where it was caught. It was brought to me to be identified, and remained in my charge for three or four weeks.

The bird was *Rallus aquaticus*, and I am at a loss to understand why it should have wandered so far from the marshy districts in which the species is usually found—for there is no stream or lake within several miles of the garden in which the bird was caught.

I kept the bird in one of my small bird-room aviaries, and fed it upon a mixture of Spratt's fine game meal and crissel, slightly moistened with boiling water. I usually added some ants' eggs and preserved egg to the mixture, but doubt whether they were necessary. I also supplied mealworms. It ate scarcely anything for the first few days, but after that took very kindly to the artificial food and appeared to thrive upon it. I supplied a large shallow pan of water, but never saw the bird standing in it. I was rather surprised to find that it frequently roosted on a bough.

It was very timid, and not a suitable inmate for a bird-room; but in a large garden-aviary it would have shewn off well, and made a pleasing change from the passerine birds to which most of us confine our attention.

The Water-rail is decidedly handsome. The long slender bill is red; the upper surface of the body olive-brown streaked with black; the under surface lead blue; the flanks barred with white; the under tail coverts white, or nearly so. The legs are long, and so are the toes; the neck also is long, and sinuous; there is a quaint little turned-up tail. Altogether a very curious, and withal attractive bird.

H. R. FILLMER.

MORE BITS FROM A BIRD-ROOM.

Fanciers must be very sympathetic people, for whenever I have recorded the loss of a hybrid or two which have hatched out—after years of failure to get a fertile egg—I have received many letters full of sympathy.

All this is very nice, and I am very grateful for the kind thoughts. Yet I am bound to say the sympathy is quite misplaced; for after doing all I possibly can to rear the young hybrids, after running about here, there, and everywhere to get a feeding hen, I can bear the bereavement with equinamity when it comes—and when one of my friends expressed his sorrow at the loss, I said, "Perhaps it is best so—they might have been nothing but hens!"

A Greenfinch cock was my best feeder last season. It was most amusing to watch him as he "filled up," hopped on to the edge of the nest, got the Canary hen (a non-feeder) to lift herself up in expectation of being fed herself, when he would pop his head in under her and feed all the young in a twinkling! He would repeat this operation as often as necessary, until the young could do without it. I was fond of that Greenfinch!

Breeding, or trying to breed, hybrids, is strangely fascinating, beyond all comparison with Canary breeding, to my thinking, at all events. There is something so utterly un-understandable about it that heightens one's desire to breed what is the least easy to obtain.

In my last contribution you were told that I had a Canary and a Bullfinch together—that the Canary was the father of hybrids from Bullfinch hens in both 1900 and 1901—that the hen had had good eggs from different Goldfinches and Linnets this season and the season previous—that then, when my paper was being written, they were sitting. The birds agreed splendidly from the first, and everything pointed very strongly toward the eggs being fertile, yet after they had been sat upon the full fortnight, I am bound to admit they were clear eggs! Now where does the fault lie? The cock, as stated, had fertilized eggs two years running; the hen had three good eggs in every clutch she had previously laid when paired with different Finches; yet there was no sign of a chick now! Strange, is it not? But (and we shall never have done with "buts") the hen had laid twenty eggs this season before the Canary was introduced, and that is reason enough for me to keep this pair for next years operations.

The Redpoll-Bullfinch cross was obtained this last season at Kilmarnock; at least, the breeder succeeded up to the point when the eggs were ready to hatch, if they did not actually hatch out. This should be a very pretty and interesting hybrid, and I hope to try for it myself another season.

R. BROWNING.

FOREIGN BIRDS AT THE AQUARIUM.

The fourteenth annual Show of the London Cage Bird Association, which was held at the Westminster Aquarium on the 18th, 19th, and 20th of November, 1902, will be the last held in that building. This is, for several reasons, not a matter for regret, but no doubt the Association will find some difficulty in securing the use of another building in an equally central position.

This year there were over one hundred entries in the open classes, which is a very great increase on last year's total. Two or three classes comprised birds of very high quality, and the class for Tanagers and Sugar-birds was especially noticeable—in fact every one of the ten entries in it deserved a prize. On the other hand, in one or two classes the Judge, quite properly, withheld the first prize on account of the poor quality of the exhibits.

There was a good attendance of members of the F.B.C., and on the first day of the Show an informal meeting of members was held in the gallery, at which various matters were discussed. The meeting had, of course, no authority, but the resolutions adopted were afterwards submitted to the Council, and confirmed.

Class 71. *Budgerigars and all species of Lovebirds and Hanging Parrots.* First, Mr. Storey's handsome pair of Peach-faced Lovebirds, in better trim than at Palace, but not as good as they were last year. Second, Mr. Howe's Red-headed Lovebird, in perfect condition and well shown. Third, Mr. E. Thorne's pair of Budgerigars. Fourth, Mr. Oakey's pair of Lovebirds in good condition. We should have reversed these last two awards. V.H.C., Mr. Castle Sloane's nice Peach-faced Lovebirds, looking well. H.C., another pair of Mr. Thorne's Budgerigars. C., Mrs. Frostick's Yellow Budgerigars: might have been higher up, but not in best feather. There were also three more pairs of Budgerigars—those belonging to Miss Little would probably have received an award had they been shown in a more suitable cage—and two other entries of Peach-faced Lovebirds.

Class 72. *All species of Parrakeets (other than Budgerigars and including Kings and all Broadtails) and Lorikeets.* First, Mr. Howe's handsome Rock Peplar: deserved its position. Second, withheld. Third, Mr. Husdon's Lorikeet, nice bird. Fourth, Mr. Oakey's well-known Port Lincoln, in good feather; we should have reversed these two awards. V.H.C., Mr. Jonas' Lorikeet. H.C., Mr. Frostick's pair of Wallace's Parrakeets, very rare and might have been higher up. C., Miss Evans' Parrakeet. A pair of Swainson's Parrakeets, belonging to Mr. Castle Sloane, were in rather poor condition. A White-eared Conure of Mr. Howe's was also entered in this class.

Class 73. *Grey Parrots and all species of Amazons.* First, withheld. Second and Special, Mr. Bateson's Grey, fine bird, but tail out of order, Third, Mrs. Barnes' Amazon, nice exhibit. Fourth, Mr. Breitkrenty's Grey, beaten by second in size and color, H.C., Mr. Erbsmehl's Amazon—said to be a splendid talker. C., Mr. Urch's Parrot. There were one or two other birds in this class and several absentees.

Class 74. *All species of short-tailed Parrots not comprised in the above, Cockatoos, Macaws, and Lories.* First, Mrs. Cooper's Blue and Buff Macaw, an exceedingly handsome bird in splendid feather and condition. Second, withheld. Third, another of Mrs. Cooper's exhibits, a Leadbeater Cockatoo, outclassed by the winner, but a very nice bird. Fourth, Mr. Cushny's Blue-eyed Cockatoo, hardly in the best condition. V.H.C., Miss Little's pretty Rose-crested Cockatoos. H.C., Mr. Husdon's Cockatoo. C.. Mr. Frostick's pair of Ganga-Gangas, an extremely rare and interesting exhibit, which we should have placed next to the Macaw.

Class 75, *Doves and Quails*, and *Class* 76, *Whydahs and Weavers*, were cancelled.

Class 77. *Common Weaver Finches.* Here were 22 entries. It is evident that exhibitors are beginning to appreciate this class. Unfortunately the quality was decidedly poor, for there were scarcely any birds in the class in really first rate condition. The first prize was awarded to Mr. Townsend's nice pair of Golden-breasted Waxbills—we have seen much better ones. Second, Mr. Hackett's Bronze Mannikins. Third, Dr. Hopkinson's Orange Bishop—not by any means an exceptionally fine specimen, but perhaps on the whole the best of its species in the class. Fourth, Mr. Hawkins' Diamond Finch. V.H.C., Mr. Hawkins' Orange-cheeks. H.C., Mrs. Skey's Silverbills. C., Mr. Hawkins' Golden-breasted Waxbillls. It must have been a difficult class to judge, as there were no birds of outstanding merit.

Class 78. *Waxbills, Grassfinches, and Mannikins.* Nineteen entries. This class contained some very good birds. The winners of the first prize were Dr. Hopkinson's Vinaceous Firefinches—very rare and in fine condition. Mr. Townsend's Long-tailed Grassfinches were second. Mr. Oakey's Double-banded Finches third, and Mr. Hawkins' Rufous-tailed Finches fourth. V.H.C., Mr. Frostick's Pin-tailed Nonpareils, which might have been higher up. H.C., Mr. Townsend's Lavender Finches — a very charming pair. C., Mr. Oakey's Cordon Bleus. This class contained nothing besides of any special interest, except the old prize winners, Mr. Hawkins' Red-faced Finches, which were this time passed unnoticed, probably on account of their being scarcely in show condition.

Class 79. *Grosbeaks, True Finches, and Buntings.* Ten entries—none of them first rate. The first prize was withheld. The second was awarded to Mrs. Frostick's Green Cardinal—a good bird, but by no means exceptionally fine, and looking rather "rough-dried." Third, Dr. Hopkinson's Lesser Rock Sparrow—rare, but certainly not beautiful. Fourth, a fair Pileated Finch of Mrs. Cooper's. V.H.C., Mr. Townsend's Pileated Finch —almost, if not quite, as good as the prize winner. H.C., Mr. Hawkins' Grey Singing Finches. The class also contained a pair of Olive Cuba Finches and a pair of ordinary Cubas (both rather rough)—also a Red-headed Cardinal, a pair of Saffron Finches, and a Nonpareil.

Class 80. *Tanagers, Sugar-birds and Zosterops.* Ten entries. This was *the* class of the Show. Mr. Hawkins' Purple Sun-bird was marked "wrong class." This was unfortunate, as if allowed to compete it would no doubt have stood first, but the Judge would seem to have had no alternative, as a Sun-bird is neither a Tanager, nor Sugar-bird, nor a Zosterops. The first prize went to Mr. Hawkins' perfect specimen of the Yellow-winged Sugar-bird, in full colour. Second and third, rare and very beautiful Tanagers shown by Mr. Townsend. Fourth, Mr. Swan's Blue Sugar-bird. V.H.C., Mr. Swan's White-capped Tanager, which, so far as rarity is concerned, deserved to be high in the prize list, but perhaps fell just a little bit short of perfection in condition. V.H.C., Mr. Townsend's Tricolour Tanager. H.C., Mr. Townsend's Archbishop Tanager. C., Mr. Townsend's Silver-blue Tanager. There was also a Superb Tanager exhibited by Mr. Andrew Philip, which in an ordinary class would have been a certain winner, and certainly deserved a card in any company. The Sun-bird was a most beautiful and interesting exhibit, while all Mr. Townsend's Tanagers were rare and delightful.

Class 81. *Crows, etc.*, Cancelled.

Class 82. *Other Insectivorous and Fruit-eating Birds.* First, Mr. Hawkins' Silver-eared Mesias. Second, Mr. Hawkins' Blue-winged Sivas. Third, Mr. Townsend's very nice Blue-winged Green Bulbul. Fourth, Mr. Hawkins' Golden-fronted Green Bulbul. H.C., Mr. Sloane's Green-billed Toucan. The Mesias and Sivas are equally rare and pretty.

The following are Members' Classes :—

Class 120. *Any variety (Seed-eating).* Seventeen entries. First, Mr. Hawkins' Many-coloured Parrakeet. Second, Mr Hawkins' Masked Grassfinch. Third, Mr. George Burrows' King Parrakeet. Fourth, Mr. Burrows'

Crimson - crowned Weaver. V.H.C., Mr. Burrows' Budgerigars. C., Mr. Burrows' White Java Sparrows. A class not of great interest or merit.

Class 121. *Any variety (Insectivorous or Fruit-eating).* Three entries. First, Mr. Russell Humphrys' Rufous-bellied Niltava Flycatcher—also the winner for the year, of the L.C.B.A. Members' Silver Challenge Cup for foreign birds. A truly charming bird, and the greatest rarity in the Show. The class also contained two Sulphur Tyrants, which received H.C. and C. respectively.

The winners of the Specials for the best V.H.C. birds were Mr. Frostick's Pin-tailed Nonpareils and Mr. Swan's White-capped Tanager. Dr. Hopkinson's Vinaceous Fire Finches received Mr. Hamlyn's Special. The Abrahams' Memorial Silver Challenge Cup was won by the Purple Sun-bird. Our Club Medals for most points were won as follows:—Mr. Hawkins, 51 points, Silver Medal. Mr. Townsend, 40 points, Silver. Dr. Hopkinson, 17 points, Bronze. Mrs. Cooper, 16 points, Bronze.

The weather was very cold, and the temperature in the Aquarium was much too low for the health and comfort of the birds.

CORRESPONDENCE.

AVICULTURE IN FLORENCE.

Sir,—I am sending you a programme of the Avicultural Exhibition which will be held here in Florence next May. If any members of the Foreign Bird Club are coming to Florence next spring they ought not to miss it. There will be a Flower Show at the same time and at the same spot.

My African Fire-finches have bred this year. My Rufous-tailed Finches have attempted to breed, but the hen died when about to lay her third egg, and I have not another to replace her. I have lost a great many birds with some epidemic; the vet. calls it cholera, and thinks some imported Canary may have brought it. I have used a great deal of Condy's fluid, and now the disease appears to have exhausted itself, but I have lost many valuable birds which I cannot easily replace.

GIULIA TOMMASI.

[I shall be pleased to forward the Programme of the Florence Avicultural Exhibition to any member who would like to see it. It is, of course, printed in Italian. Nine years ago I had a very similar experience with bird fever. All my Canaries died off like flies, and about a dozen foreign birds succumbed also.—H. R. F.]

JUDGING BRITISH BIRDS.

SIR,—Will you oblige by inserting this in "Bird Notes," and thereby draw the attention of exhibitors to the wrong done to them by certain Judges—at least it is what I consider a grievous wrong.

It is the Any Variety Class to which I refer. I have noticed that several Judges, when they arrange the birds on the judging table, put the species together and select the best of each. Then they place (say) a Yellowhammer first, Hawfinch second, Bramblefinch third, and so on until all the species have had their turn. Whereas, perhaps, one of the Yellowhammers is worth nearly all the rest of the class put together, yet it has to wait till all the other species have been served and then be content with a Commended ticket—when it really ought to have been second. It is not the amateur Judges who do this—it is men who are reckoned to be authorities on British birds.

I also think the Club's Medal ought to be for the best bird, and not for most points as at present. It is generally the exhibitor with the longest purse and most time that gains these prizes. These exhibitors are welcomed by Show Committees—then let them supply the points Specials. "HARDBILL."

SHOW CLASSIFICATIONS FOR FOREIGN BIRDS.

SIR,—As you ask for suggestions *re* Classifications, I propose that the Class for "All species of Parrakeets, other than Budgerigars (including Kings and Broadtails) and Lorikeets," should be divided into two classes, as follows :—

Class 1.—Kings, Crimson-wings, Pennants, and Rosellas.

Class 2.—All other species of Parrakeets (except Budgerigars) and Lorikeets.

I think this alteration would attract more entries, and make the classes more interesting. F. HOWE.

NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD AND MULE CLUB.

Committee Meeting held at Headquarters on the 4th December, 1902.

Present: Mr. Pollard (Vice-Chairman), Messrs. Maxwell, C. Cooper, Jones, Frostick, Dewhurst, Vale, Sandy, and the Hon. Secretary.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Letters were read from Messrs. Simmonds, Howe, Dewhurst, W. P. Williams, Lindley, Ramsden, and Mills.

The application of the St. Helen's and Dist. Orni. Society, for support and patronage, was considered. They submitted a good classification and were granted one Gold and one Silver Medal, on the proposal of Mr. Sandy, seconded by Mr. Jones.

Two questions were submitted to the Committee, which led to some interesting discussion, in reference to the entry of a White Blackbird and a Cinnamon Starling at Shows. Replies were dictated and directed to be published in the Club Notes.

The Vice-Chairman having to vacate the Chair, Mr. Jones was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Frostick rose to take exception to a paragraph which appeared in a fanciers' publication in reference to the Club, and moved a resolution that the Hon. Secretary should be advised to write a letter to the paper and refute the misstatements. Carried unanimously.

In reference to the L. & P. O. Society's suggestion that we should offer our Medals at the forthcoming Show at the Crystal Palace: as that Society had not complied with the rules, the Committee decided with regret that they were unable to give the Medals.

Mr. Marshall, 50, Church Street, Poplar, was proposed as a member by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Jones, and duly elected.

A vote of thanks to the Deputy-Chairman concluded the meeting.

Mr. W. Pierce-Withams having asked whether a White Blackbird is eligible for entry in an A.O.V. British Bird Class, when there is no class specially provided for Albinos and no clause prohibiting the same, the following reply was sent to him :—

> The White Blackbird should be shown in the Class for A.O.V. British birds where no class for Blackbirds, and no Albino Class, are specially provided, unless there is a clause in the Schedule prohibiting this. But the Committee are of opinion that these rare-coloured birds should have special classes provided for them, and ought not to compete with birds of normal colour as provided for in the Standards of British Birds in the list of the N.B.B. & M.C. W. A. LOTT.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

The time is fast approaching for our annual election of Judges, Committee, and other officers of the Club, and any alteration in the rules which may be deemed necessary should be made at the same time. It is therefore advisable that any proposed alteration of rules, and other propositions or suggestions relating to the Club, should be forwarded to me without delay so that the same may be published in the next issue of "Bird Notes."

W. A. LOTT, *Hon. Sec.*,
NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD & MULE CLUB,
103, Cheapside, London, E.C.

STANDARDS.

PIED WAGTAIL.

Steadiness	30
Size	20
Quality and condition (tail and feet must be perfect)	40
Staging	10
	100

In all the Wagtails preference will be given to those birds possessing most varied markings of a clear cut and distinct character, with depth of the respective colours, as indicating older birds. Birds of the year, although recognized, are undesirable.

GREY WAGTAIL.

Same as Pied. The brighter and deeper the yellow the better.

YELLOW WAGTAIL.

Same as Pied. The brighter and deeper the yellow the better.

WHEATEAR.

Steadiness	30
Size	20
Quality and condition	40
Staging	10
	100

Preference will be given to birds of deep and distinct colours, as indicating age. Missing claws are a decided defect.

STONECHAT.

Steadiness	20
Size	10
Quality and condition	60
Staging	10
	100

Birds of varied colour and depth of marking preferred, as indicating age. Missing claws a great defect.

WHINCHAT.

Steadiness	15
Size	10
Quality and condition	65
Staging	10
	100

Variety and depth of colours preferred, as indicating age. Missing claws a great defect.

ROBIN.

Steadiness	20
Size	10
Bold eye	10
Upper breast the redder the better	15
Upper part of head, neck and back nice yellowish olive brown	10
Lower breast, a clear white, in marked contrast to the upper red	10
Quality and condition	20
Staging	5
	100

A good exhibition specimen should be sprightly in his cage, and fairly tight in feather.

COMMON WREN.

Steadiness	10
Size	10
Markings, clear and well defined	20
Quality and condition (tail and flights must be perfect and unfrayed)	50
Staging	10
	100

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

New Members joining the Club between this time and the end of April may, if they wish, instead of paying the full subscription for the current year and receiving the back numbers of "Bird Notes," pay a half subscription of 2/6 and be entitled to "Bird Notes" only from the date of their election. They would, however, be wiser to pay the full subscription and take the back numbers—for the stock is getting low, and in a few years' time Vol. I. of "Bird Notes" will almost certainly be worth more than the published price.

The offer at half price of the five numbers of "Foreign Bird Notes," to members of the F. B. C. and the N. B. B. & M. C., will remain open until the 15th of January—after which date full price will be charged.

I regret that there was a misprint last month in the list of "Medals won this season." At Norwich, the *Silver* Medal was won by Mr. Yallop, and the *Bronze* by Mr. Howe.

At the Aquarium Show, one of our members paid me 5/-. I put the money apart, but have forgotten who gave it to me, and what it was for! Will the gentleman who paid it kindly communicate with me?

HORATIO R. FILLMER,
Hon. Sec. FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
52, Ship Street, Brighton.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS AS TO CLUB MEDALS, MADE BY THE SHOW COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL.

9. Medals shall be given at OPEN SHOWS only, and points in Members' classes shall not be counted.

10. No Medal shall be awarded at any Show unless at least THREE members compete.

MEDALS WON.

Cork, November, 1902. Bronze, Mr. F. C. Porte.
Cambridge, December, 1902. Bronze. Mrs. Anningson.

MEDALS GRANTED.

Leicester, 7th and 8th Jan. F. B. C. Classification A.
One bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. J. F. DEWAR.

Show Classification E (see "Bird Notes" for September, page 237) has been further amended by the omission of "Common, Orange, and Napoleon Weavers" from Class 7.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

Mr. **Ernest E. Little**, 16, Great Quebec Street, Montagu Square, W.

Mrs. **Skey**, Selby Villa, Thornhill Road, Croydon.

Mr. J. **Collis**, 83, Brynland Avenue, Bishopston, Bristol.

Miss C. **Rosa Little**, Baronshalt, The Barons, East Twickenham.

Mrs. **Cross**, The Manor House, Sleaford.

Mr. S. G. **Waldram**, F. S. S., Mona House, Queen St., Redcar.

Miss E. **Brooksbank**, Middleton-on-the-Wolds, Driffield.

Rev. **Richard H. Wilmot**, Poulton Vicarage, Fairford.

Mrs. J. **Pond**, 174, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool.

Miss M. **Hamilton**, 120, Stephen's Green W., Dublin.

Mr. P. H. **Kenny**, 55, Drumcondra Road, Dublin.

Mrs. **Day**, The Rectory, Killeagh, Co. Cork.

Mr. **George Moss**, 51, Wellington St., Loughborough.

Capt. V. F. **Smithwick**, Youghal House, Nenagh, Ireland.

The Hon. **Walter B. Wrottesley**, 8, Herbert Crescent, W.

Mr. C. S. **Reid**, 4, Howard Park Drive, Kilmarnock.

Mr. W. E. **Stevens**, Punch Bowl Hotel, Lowther Street, York.

NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED.

The Rev. **Reginald E. P. Gorringe**, 89, Cromwell Road, Peterborough.

Mr. D. W. **Nicoll**, 75, Glengate Street, Kirriemuir.

Miss E. L. **Jardine**, 133, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea.

Mr. A. R. **McKill**, Ashfield Lodge, Thorner, nr. Leeds.

Mr. **Charles Richard Lloyd**, Church Street, Market Harborough.
Proposed by Mr. **Swan**.

Mr. **Fred. Cockayne**, Craig Villa, 50, Thorneywood Rise, Nottingham. *Proposed by* Mr. **Fillmer**.

Mr.T. **Newbould**, Oakdene, Linthorpe, Middlesborough.
Proposed by Mr. **Osbaldeston**.

Mrs. **Osborne**, Lindiville, Cork.
Proposed by Mr. **Philip**.

OUR DEFICIT.

To the Members of the Foreign Bird Club.

Thanks to a most generous donation from Mr. Newman, F.Z.S., and useful contributions from several other members, our Deficit has practically ceased to exist. There is still a small sum required, however, which I trust will soon be forthcoming.

Our sincere thanks are offered to all who have helped.

J. A. Swan,
87, Lower Kennington Lane, S.E.

	Purchased by	*Amount realised.* £	s.	d.
Previously acknowledged ..	.. .. ..	3	1	6
Mr- Swan's Zebra Finches	Rev. R. Gorringe..	0	4	6
Mr. Frostick's 3 books, 1 each	Miss T. Saywell Miss E. Chawner Mr. Swan ..	0	1	6
The following further contributions have been received :				
Mr. T. H. Newman, F.Z.S. ..	.. .. ..	2	2	0
Mrs. Anningson	.. .. ..	0	5	0
Anon.	.. .. ..	0	5	0
Miss E. Brooksbank	.. .. ..	0	2	6
Miss C. L. Collier	.. .. ..	0	2	6
Mr. A. Bullock Webster ..	.. .. ..	0	1	3
Rev. Reginald E. P. Gorringe	.. .. ..	0	1	3
		£6	7	0

Original amount of deficit ..	£7	0	7
Amount received as above ..	6	7	0
Sum still due ..	£0	13	7

All the birds offered in our last issue are still unsold, with the exception of the Zebra Finches.

I also have seven of Mr. Frostick's books left.

THE BIRD MARKET.

Only members of the N. B. B. & M. C. or the F. B. C. can advertise here. The charge is one penny for every four words, address included. All advertisements relating to British birds must be sent to Mr. Lott, and all relating to foreign birds to Mr. Fillmer. The Hon. Secretaries of the respective Clubs are authorised to decline advertisements which they consider unsuitable.

Advertisements for the next issue must be received by the 15th of January.

Good breed Archangel Pigeons, 5/- pair; Fantails, 2/6 each; White-headed Lovebirds, 4/6 pair; Budgerigars, 6/6 pair; Cockatiels, 7/6 (cocks); Ringneck Parrakeets, 12/6 pair, odd cocks 5/- each; Black-headed Gouldians, 18/6 pair; Blue Barbets, 20/- each; Javan Parrakeets, 6/- each; Rose-breasted Cockatoos, 10/6 each; cock Redrumps, 15/- each; Cactus Conures, 7/6 each; Scarlet Tanagers, 42/- pair; Black Tanagers, 42/- pair; Orange-breasted Parrakeets, 4/6 each; White-eared Bulbuls, 15/- each; Common Mynah, 13/-; Bearded Tits, 18/6 pair; Red-crested Cardinals, 6/6 each; Pope Cardinals, 10/6; Golden Weavers, 7/6, rare; Yellow-shouldered Weavers, 8/6; Green Weavers, rare, 7/6; Red-billed Weavers, 2/6; Napoleon Weavers, 7/6; Half-masked Weavers, 5/-; 2 rare Weavers, name unknown, 10/6 each, pretty birds; hen Whydahs, 5/- ea.; true pairs Silky Cowbirds, 8/6; White Java Sparrows, 10/6 pair, also Common Javas, 3/6 pr.; Nonpareils, 7/6; true pairs Indigoes, 15/6, odd cock, 7/6; Military Troupials, 9/6; Ribbon Finches, 3/6 pair; high breed Norwich Canaries, 15/- pair, hens, 3/6; Zebra Doves, 3/6 pair, a little rough; Diamond Doves, 21/- pair; Passerine Doves, 12/6 pair; Spice-birds, 3/6 pair; Zebra Finches, 5/- pair, odd hens, 2/6; Black-headed Mannikins, 2/6 pair; Three-coloured Mannikins, 3/6 pair; Silverbills, 3/6 pair; Avadavats, 2/6 pair; beautiful Blue-fronted Amazons, 21/- each; cock Californian Quails, 6/- each, full plumage; Zosterop Finches, 14/- pair.

BURGESS, High Street, Bushey, Herts.

Pair Cockatiels, 12/6. Wanted: pair Blossomheads.
J. Collis, 83, Brynland Avenue, Bristol.

Grey Parrot, splendid talker, £10; beautiful pair White Doves, 3/6; 27 parts 'British Birds their Nests and Eggs,' clean and perfect, 40/-.
J. Cronkshaw, Mansion House, Plantation Street, Accrington.

Wanted—Acclimatized cock Red Rosella.
Cochrane, St. Boswells, Scotland.

A Member has a pair of healthy *acclimatised* Pin-tailed Nonpareils which, he writes me, are worth quite £3 the pair—though a lower offer would be considered. If these are sold, one half or one third of the purchase money (according to price realised) will be presented to the Club.
J. A. Swan, 87, Lower Kennington Lane, S.E.

☞ *All communications for "Bird Notes" in reference to the British Bird and Hybrid department should be addressed to the Hon. Sec. of the National British Bird and Mule Club, and all communications in reference to Foreign Birds to the Hon. Sec. of the Foreign Bird Club.*

BIRD-ROOM NOTES.

It may interest members of the F.B.C. to hear of my varied luck with foreign birds, this season.

With regard to Budgerigars, I find the Yellow variety by far the more difficult to breed: though when reared they are quite hardy. The Green and the Yellow flying together in an aviary make a fine contrast. All my Budgerigars are extremely fond of egg-food, and I always keep a saucerful on the bird-room floor.

I have bred, this season, some curious hybrids—the father a Spice Bird and the mother a Bengalese. The young ones, five in number, are more like the father than the mother.

My pair of Orange-cheeked Waxbills spent most of the summer in building nests and laying eggs, but were apparently too shy to sit.

I was lucky in having a fine nest of five Zebra Finches, but the last nest contained only one young bird—a poor crop.

To-day, I see, rather to my surprise, in the nest of a hen Yellow Budgerigar, a young one apparently greenish-yellow in colour: having kept the Green and Yellow varieties together for two years, and never having had a hybrid, I supposed there was no fear of a cross. Can anyone tell me if the Yellow are a separate variety?* It may be argued that a Green hen may have laid in the Yellow hen's nest; but this is not likely to be the case, as for some months past the only hen Green Budgerigar in the room has suffered from an injured wing, and cannot rise from the floor.

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*Yellow Budgerigars are a distinct variety, and generally breed true to colour, but they are not a different species from the Green. They are an artificial variety like White Java Sparrows, or the different breeds of Canaries, and no doubt originated in an accidental sport, perpetuated by careful selection. We have heard of *Blue* Budgerigars, but have never seen them.—Ed.

Numbers of young Green Budgerigars have hatched this year in my bird-room, but my last nest, containing the extraordinary number of seven young, were all but one killed by the hen bird. It cost me some careful watching to find her out—I then had her caught and killed without any delay. The cock bird fed the remaining young one most carefully and it is now a strong bird.

What satisfactory birds Grey Java Sparrows are in an aviary ? They are always in perfect feather, and never dull. I have five Javas flying with the rest of the birds, and yet all is peace. They are full of mischief, and have pecked a hole in the bird-room wall deep enough for them to sit in. I am sorry to say that though a pair, of the five, had a nest this season with young, they starved them to death ; the young birds were nearly ready to fly, and in a few more days would have been able to do for themselves.

Nothing ever seems to happen to birds of the Grey variety, but the White Javas (which are, I believe, a kind of artificial production), always appear to be in some kind of trouble : my last pair were drowned. I have always understood that they, the White, were easy to breed, but mine shewed no inclination to do so.

Wonderful bad luck attends my endeavours to breed Cockatiels : four hens have died one after the other, leaving the cocks in robust health. My four hens all came from different places, so I cannot account for the mortality. Two out of the four had eggs with young in them, and were sitting, as I thought, steadily.

I do not think any but a really patient person should attempt bird breeding, British or foreign. It is the unexpected that so often happens, the unexpected being the loss, five times out of six, of a nest of birds to all appearances so flourishing that success seems certain. When I say "to all appearances," I do not mean that I ever see my young birds in their nests : I judge by the coming and going of the parent birds. It is only when I əjel a conviction that something has gone wrong, that I ever look inside a nest. And it is impossible to do any good by interference.

My Ribbon Finches had a nest, and the first I knew of it was seeing these young birds sitting on a branch and crying to be fed. ISABELLA WILSON.

THE SISKIN.

Chrysomitris spinus, Linn.

This lively and altogether delightful member of the *Fringillidæ* family is so truly a cosmopolitan in its habits that a list of the places where it is not to be found would probably be the easiest method of dealing with its habitat, but when I say that its proper home appears to be in the north of Europe, I think that for present purposes I shall have said all that need be said on that point. I will venture to add, however, that it is more common in England than is generally supposed. A bird-dealer acquaintance of mine, who gets consignments of Linnets from various parts of the Midlands, frequently has a few Siskins amongst them.

Speaking of Siskins to a bird-catcher, (aviculture, like poverty, brings us in contact with queer folk), he told me that he had been catching, off and on, for forty years, and had in his time taken as many as seven dozen Siskins "at a pull," but then that only occurred in one of their flight years, because, he'd have me to know, Siskins only visit England in flocks at intervals of seven years ! Truly we live and learn.

As a cage-bird, the Siskin is much more desirable than many birds generally included under that head. It takes kindly to captivity, and with reasonable care and attention soon adapts itself to its new surroundings and becomes quite tame. It seems blessed with a prodigious appetite, and for a bird of its size consumes an enormous quantity of food. As it only requires and does best on plain canary seed as a staple diet (hemp seed and maw seed are much appreciated in addition) the aviarist need not begrudge the little chap his living, especially when we are able to record the fact that, when not eating, it is either singing its quaint little song, or attending to its toilet.

It, as frequently as not, prefers to roost, if it can be called "roosting," on the wires, whether of cage or aviary, and sometimes head downwards. In its acrobatic performances it has something in common with the Titmice, and there is some resemblance in their respective bills.

I have never been able to understand why we see so few Siskin hybrids, because, in my experience, it is almost as ready to pair with other finches as the Greenfinch, which is saying a great deal. It is a matter of ancient history, however, for Mudie, writing fifty years ago, tells us that the hybrid produced between the Siskin and the Canary Finch is very handsome, and fertile! Certainly the Siskin-Canary mule (I suppose I must refer to a bird with a Canary for one of its parents, as a "mule," and not as a "hybrid") is, to my mind, far prettier than some of the crosses which are produced in greater numbers.

In common with the other members of the finch family, the Siskin offers us some interesting varieties; some being much brighter in colour and markings than others, the differences in the cap especially being very noticeable. Some have the cap black and unbroken, while others have it laced, *i.e.*, the margins of the head feathers are tinged with grey, giving the cap a spangled appearance, which, in a good specimen, has a very pleasing effect. A little patch of black feathers under the chin is, on some, very conspicuous, but on others hardly noticeable.

Writing in this connexion, it is curious to record how superior in colourings the genuine English-caught Siskin is, as a rule, to that of the Siskins sent to us by continental dealers; all of which seem to bear a more or less washed out appearance. and run smaller in size than those from our Midland counties. I say it is curious, because just the reverse obtains in the case of the Continental Goldfinches and Redpolls. It would be interesting to know the cause of these differences, and I think it would form a good subject for discussion in the pages of our Magazine at some future date.

THOMAS MARSHALL.

THE SPECTACLE BIRDS.

The little birds of the genus Zosterops are among the most attractive of the insectivorous species commonly imported. Although not brilliantly coloured, the tints of the plumage are charmingly soft and harmonious—while the little creatures are most graceful and active, readily become tame, and show a considerable degree of intelligence.

Considering their extremely small size, the Zosterops are easily kept. They require nothing but a good insectivorous mixture, and plenty of soft fruit. Dried ants' eggs, rubbed up with a little dripping and mixed with crumbled *colifichet* and some preserved egg, suit them admirably. Dried flies, and a little fine crissel, may be added. The fruits most appreciated are sweet oranges, bananas, soft and ripe pears and apples, and stewed or baked apples. Mealworms are certainly unnecessary and probably harmful if given habitually; but are occasionally useful, especially if the birds are exposed to a low temperature. A little sop, made with boiled milk, may be given occasionally.

There are more than eighty different species, but only a few of them are imported. The species most often met with is that which is usually (following Swinhoe)) called *Zosterops simplex*. Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, however, considers *Z. simplex* to be only a Chinese variety of *Z. palpebrosa* (which Dr. Butler calls the Indian Spectacle-bird). When doctors differ, who shall decide? But as this species is generally known to aviculturists as the Chinese Zosterops, it is most convenient to call it by that name—though I suspect that nearly all those which reach our country come from India. All those which I have possessed have appeared very sensitive to cold.

The Grey-backed species (*Z. cærulescens*) comes from Australia, is slightly larger than the Chinese, and is distinguished, as its name implies, by its grey mantle. Some few years ago this species was frequently seen at Shows It is said to have a pretty song.

The Japanese Spectacle-bird (*Z. japonica*) was unknown to me until a few months ago, when I purchased a pair. This is larger than the common species, and the sides of the body and flanks have a distinctly ruddy tint. My little Chinese bird, which I have had more than a year, was so unfriendly to the new arrivals when I turned them into his aviary, that I had to remove them to other quarters. It was comical to see him driving these larger birds about. The cock of the Japanese species has a pleasing song.

At the Zoo, they have had examples of the New Zealand bird, which they distinguished by the name of *Z. lateralis*, but at the British Museum this appears to be considered the same species as the Australian (*Z. cærulescens*).

One avicultural writer claims to have kept Zosterops through the winter in an out door aviary. This may be possible with the Australian or Japanese species, but scarcely with the smaller " Chinese " birds—which, as I have said before, are usually Indian. My birds generally show signs of discomfort if the temperature is below 55, and a temperature of less than 50 is somewhat dangerous to them.

The Zosterops are particularly fond of a bath.

These birds have a striking superficial resemblance to the British trio of tiny Warblers, the Chiff-chaff, the

Willow Wren, and the Wood Wren. But the Honey-eaters and the Warblers are not really near relations, and the difference in the dietary is great. The Zosterops are easy birds to cater for, but the Chiff-chaff and its cousins require most careful feeding, and seldom live in captivity for more than a few weeks.

H. R. FILLMER.

A VETERAN BLACKCAP.

Of all soft-billed birds, for song and tameness, I prefer the Blackcap. He is rightly called the "Mock Nightingale," and he sings from early in the morning until late at night, and nearly all the year round—at least mine does.

I have had several Blackcaps, but I believe the one I now possess beats the record for age—at least I have been told so by experienced judges. I bought him at the Crystal Palace Show in 1896, of Messrs. Francis Brothers. He was then nearly two years old, and had taken only H.C. Since then he has taken no end of prizes, and last year won, at the Palace, the Silver Medal for the best British bird shown by a lady. He sings even at Shows, and one of the reporters remarked about him last year—"Jolly little chap, he sung while we reported on him."

He is never ill, but at the Aquarium this year increasing years and the cold told on him, and he failed to gain any award, but came home with the word "sick" written on the label. However, he is all right again, and singing, and has since taken a second prize at Cirencester.

He is fed on soft food, and is very fond of currants and sponge cake—but in the season for green figs he eats nothing else, disposing of about two a day. He never takes a bath, in fact he won't bathe, but makes pretence of doing so in his drinking water. He seldom gets his feet dirty. He lives in a box cage—a single breeding cage with the nest boxes removed. He is very pugnacious, and when one has to catch him he will throw himself on his back and fight with beak and claws.

Two or three years ago he was lost for four days, when returning from a Show, through the address label coming off—but he came home none the worse for his prolonged journey, with the wrapper covered with railway labels, "try so-and-so," etc. Since then I have always put ants' eggs at the bottom of the Show cages of my insectivorous birds, so that they may not starve if delayed on their journey.

I hope, if the weather is not too severe, to send him to the Palace in February, when he will be nearly nine years old. His name is "Sir Francis."

ROBINDENE.

THE GREEN BULBUL.

Is the Green Bulbul ever imported now? I never see the bird mentioned in "Bird Notes." Can it be that the younger generation of aviculturists do not care about the bird, or are they unacquainted with its charms? Some ten years ago single specimens of this species used to come into the market from time to time: they were always perfectly tame and were said to be hand-reared in their native land, India.

This bird is not a true Bulbul, and is more correctly called the Green Malabar Honeysucker, a name which has the fatal defect of being too long and clumsy for general use. The Green Bulbul is, I think, almost without exception, the most delightful of cage birds, but it wants to be kept in a cage (as large a cage as you can give it), and not in an aviary where its charming traits are lost in the crowd.

If I recollect rightly, it was in 1893 that I first bought a Green Bulbul: he was very tame and became very fond of his master, but he disliked other birds and was kept in a large cage by himself: he was very clever at catching mealworms, and would sit on my left forefinger and catch them as I threw them to him with my right hand. He never ailed a day and did not seem to mind cold weather a bit, but was always ready for his bath, which he took in a number of short dashes through the water, repeated again and again until his plumage became soaked.

One of his peculiarities was that he would never descend to the floor of his cage, and I never saw him either run or hop on the ground. He was very fond of mealworms, and I would often put one in the middle of the floor of his cage and watch his efforts to get at it : he would cling to the wires and reach out toward the mealworm, or would hang head downward from the lowest perch and try to pick it up in that way, but nothing would induce him to settle on the floor and take it like an ordinary bird. I conclude that in their wild state Green Bulbuls live entirely in trees and never come down to the ground.

The slender curved bill and the long tongue are beautifully adapted for getting at the interior of flowers, on the honey from which the bird in its wild state doubtless feeds partially or entirely. In captivity it is easily fed on fruit, bread and milk, the ordinary egg food, and mealworms. My Bulbul lived for some years happy and healthy in confinement: he would doubtless have lived many years longer had I not in an evil hour turned him into a small aviary among other birds: I watched them carefully and for a few days all went well: then one day I suppose a quarrel occurred and the Green Bulbul attacked, or it was attacked by, a black and yellow Troupial: on my next visit to the aviary I found the Green Bulbul lying dead on the floor and the Troupial triumphantly tearing out the feathers of his fallen foe.

The Green Bulbul is one of the most beautiful of cage birds. of a bright grass green, with orange forehead, throat of purple and black, and a patch of brilliant blue on the bend of each wing. It has a sweet song and learns to copy the notes of other birds.

C. S. Simpson.

HULL SHOW.

From the British Bird point of view the Hull Show was a great success, as that section certainly contained some of the best classes in the Show, and numbered 140 entries in 12 classes, an average of nearly 12 per class. The Albino Class had to be cancelled, only two entries having been received. In the Mule Section the numbers were not so large, being only 49 in five classes, just under 10 per class. The Clear or Evenly-marked Class had only three entries, and had to be cancelled, by which we unfortunately lost the chance of seeing some of the best light mules produced this season.

The quality in both sections was grand, and the opportunity of inspecting them afforded me (and others interested in these classes) a real treat—even the Canary fanciers were temporarily attracted from their long rows of red-fed beauties and compelled to admit that the Hybrids and British birds were an interesting sight. The exhibits were nicely arranged in two tiers, across one end, and down the longest side, of the room, thus giving a good view of the whole at once.

The exhibits, I believe, received every possible attention.

Mr. Charles Houlton judged in his usual prompt and business-like style, his awards being well received. In fact, I think he did well, undoubtedly placing the best birds in the money in nearly every class. Of course, like most other Shows, there was the usual exhibitor whose bird would have won, had the Judge only known anything about that variety. With such gentlemen difference in condition and keenness of competition counts for nothing, and if they could be appointed judges it would be very nice, as we might then all profit by their superior knowledge.

In the Unevenly-marked Canary Mule Class, a grand class of 11, the 1st was a large lightly variegated Greenfinch in beautiful feather, and the lightest of that variety yet seen in Hull ; 2nd, the well-known Uttoxeter Goldfinch ; 3rd, Variegated Linnet, a little gem, and well deserved his place. Dark Goldfinch or Linnet-Canary (Yellow), were a highly-fed lot, in splendid condition (all Goldfinch-Canary). 1st, grand colour, but not so large as 2nd and 3rd, or V.H.C. (two in wrong class here, one had a mark, and the other was a Buff). Where are all the Yellow Linnet-mules ? I hope they have not yet to be hatched. Dark Goldfinch or Linnet and Canary (Buffs), were a nice lot, but varied in size even more than the Yellows. If I might offer my humble opinion, I think the Buffs, with less colour feed, showed the markings far better than the Yellows. A.O.V. Dark Mule, 1st the Bullfinch-Canary, in good colour and condition ; 2nd, Greenfinch-Canary, very large ; 3rd, Redpoll-Canary, hybrids. The winner in this class had a lash like a well groomed crest-bred Canary. Had that anything to do with the old champion Linnet-Bullfinch having to stand second ? It was a surprise any way, for some.

In British the Goldfinch Class of 19 caused great interest, and also difference of opinion. A difficult class to judge, as there was very little between about 10 of them. *Were these all British ?* At another time I should like to state my reasons for believing some of them were not. Bullfinches were a good class, the winners being large, good colour, and cage-moulted. Linnets (21), the largest class and keenest competition in British. Some grand Linnets were without a card. These birds at least give rise to no doubt as to their place of birth. Chaffinches and Bramblefinches were small classes, but good in quality. Greenfinches were a good class and the winners all colour-fed and of enormous size, Redpoll or Siskin and the Bunting Classes were interesting, but contained nothing particularly striking I think. Hens. This class, being a new feature here, was disappointing in point of numbers, as there were only seven, and I had expected twenty at least, but we have gained something by it, as we now have Mr. Houlton's decision that the Nuthatch is a hardbill ; all the same, I found it very fond of a mealworm.

The Softbill Classes were not large, but contained some splendid specimens. The cost of carriage no doubt affects the entries here, as larger cages are used in these classes.

The Skylark has disappeared from the Show bench, it seems. This is in consequence of nearly all the Judges leaving it out of the cards, when it did appear, and the only remedy will be to give it a separate class.

TOM PERKINS.

REVIEWS.

Bird Notes from the "Uganda Protectorate," by Sir Harry Johnstone. (2 *vols. Hutchinson & Co.* 1902).

As many of our members may not have the opportunity of reading the above work, a few extracts about the birds found in Uganda will be of interest.

The whole region teems with bird life—the tentative list given at the end of Vol I., containing seven hundred and seventy-one species. Many of these are of course found in other parts of the African Continent, but in Uganda all kinds have a common meeting-ground, so varied are the climate and conformation of the country—sweltering heat, perpetual snow—impenetrable swamp, inaccessible mountain.

Now that the railway is completed to Victoria N'yanza, and the European and Indian population increasing, there is no reason why we should not open up a new source of supply for the foreign bird market.

The notes on the migration Eastward, and change of colour, of the Grey Parrot are most interesting. Perhaps some of our readers have already seen a specimen differing from the usual type, and can give fuller particulars.

(Extract). "The Uganda Protectorate is very rich in birds. In no part of Africa I have ever visited has bird life seemed so abundant and so omnipresent. The least observant European in the Rift Valley must be conscious of the Black Chats, with white patches on their wings, hopping about the settlements. The Flamingoes on Lakes Naivasha and Hannington, the colleges of Marabout Storks, the companies of Crown Cranes, the solitary Secretary-bird, the wheeling Kites, the Griffon Vulture, the black and white Egyptian Vultures with yellow beaks and legs, the gorgeous Glossy Starlings with their plumage of iridescent blue-green and copper-red, the brightly-coloured or extravagantly-plumed Widow-finches and Weaver-birds, are all familiar objects in the landscape of the Eastern province (of Uganda).

"The Grey Parrots and the many richly-plumed Plantain-eaters and Touracos in the forests of the Central Western and Uganda Provinces, the screaming Fish Eagles, the Brown Vulture, the Grey and the handsome Bateleur and Black-crested Eagles, the Sun-birds, Barbets, green Parrots, green Pigeons, blue and mauve Rollers, are seldom absent from one's sight in the day-time as one traverses the forests and grassy down country in Uganda, Toro, Busoga, and Elgon.

"Of the Widow-finches, the most extravagant of all these birds in the tail is *Chera progne.* This bird is found in parts of South Africa, and reappears, strange to say, in the North-Eastern part of the Uganda Protectorate. In this bird, about the size of a Thrush, not only are the plumes of the tail such as would be remarkable in size in a game-cock, but the primaries and secondaries of the wings appear also to be permanently enlarged out of all proportion to the body, in order to assist in supporting this enormous tail. When these birds are flying they seem to be almost supported, as by a parachute, on the outspread tail feathers, and to float on these expanded plumes. When the bird is in full flight, yet slackening pace with a view to perching, the tail feathers curl forward and diverge in a most shapely manner.

"Another common finch is *Pyromelana flammiceps* (Crimson-crowned Weaver). In the spring months, in that part of Uganda North of the Equator (and perhaps again in the Autumn) the males of the Bishop finches blaze out into gorgeous red and yellow body plumage. The males appear to be followed by five or six females.

"There are few districts in Uganda without the beautiful Glossy Starlings, but these birds appear more than usually abundant round about Lake Baringo. There is the usual abundance of Bulbuls, Warblers, and Thrushes, and I am weary of contradicting the foolish old doctrine that, in the tropics, birds do not sing.

"The Crimson-crowned Barbet is common in the wooded regions, and Honey Guides also. A very handsome purple and white Cuckoo, and Mouse-birds, play in every thicket.

"Amongst the most beautiful and remarkable of birds is the Great Blue Plaintain Eater *(Corythœala cristata)*. It is a remarkable fact that all the species are found in Uganda, which cannot be said of any other part of Africa.

"The Hornbills are well represented: the smaller kind, with black, white, and brown plumage and black and red beaks, are very common in the east and central parts of the Protectorate.

"Amongst the Parrots there is the Grey Parrot of West Africa. The range of this bird would appear to be increasing rapidly at the present time. About fifty years ago (according to the Arabs) it had just reached the West Coast of Tanganyika; it has now made its way to the East Coast and up the Malagarazi River; from Kavirondo it has spread Eastward to the Nandi Forests and to Kikuyu, whence it will probably soon reach the East Coast of Africa. Already this bird would seem to be developing sub-species that may in time become valid species.

"Besides *Psittacus temneh*, of Sierra Leone, (which is a distinct species, and a Grey Parrot without a red tail), the Grey Parrots of Prince's Island, off the coast of Lower Guinea, are becoming different in coloration from the ordinary type. The grey plumage is developing into a dull purple, while the scarlet tail is becoming violet red, the upper mandible of the beak has lengthened, and in some respects the Parrot on Prince's Island is taking the place of the raptorial birds which the natives say it is driving from the island. In the interior of Angola and the South-Western part of the Congo basin the grey of the Grey Parrot is turning to white and pink, some of these birds actually becoming pink all over, with a scarlet tail. In Uganda the plumage is normal. In parts of Uganda there are Love-birds and several species of *Pæocephalus*."

These extracts will show what a bird paradise Uganda is. Those mentioned scarcely touch the fringe of the different varieties contained in the seven hundred and odd species—but there can be no doubt that a country has been opened up from which the aviculturist can draw unlimited supplies, when the natives realise the demand, and dealers extend their operations to that hitherto little known part of the world.

A. Bullock-Webster.

"*Parrakeets: being a Practical Handbook to those species kept in Captivity.*" *By D. Seth-Smith, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. Parts II. and III.*

These parts of Mr. Seth-Smith's work fully sustain the promise of Part I. The Conures are finished and the Thick-billed Parrakeets, the Blue-winged Love-bird, the Small-billed Parrakeets, the Ring-necks, and the genus *Polytelis*, are all dealt with. There are coloured plates of the Brown-throated, Cactus, Lesser Patagonian, White-eared, and Pearly Conures: the White-winged and Tui Parrakeets; Blyth's Nicobar and the Nicobar Parrakeet and Barraband's Parrakeet. Two of the drawings are by Mr. Grönvold—the rest by Mr. H. Goodchild. We very much prefer Mr. Goodchild's work.

Some of the Conures are very charming little birds, and it is a great pity that their noisiness makes them all but impossible as pets. The account of the common Cactus Conure is attractive, and almost makes one wish to possess examples of the species—until one remembers their truly excruciating voices. Mr. Seth-Smith quotes Miss Alderson on Cactus Conures, as follows,—" Like every other kind of bird they vary in temperament. I have three that are all that can be desired, while two others are just the reverse. Of the first four I purchased three are still alive; the fourth died from injuries, caused, it is supposed, by a Tovi Parrakeet. All four birds were extraordinarily tame from the first, though I believe they were newly imported. The very day they arrived they all ran in a body across the aviary floor to meet me, and some of them even took biscuit from my fingers. If a large bird attacked them they joined forces, and it was most amusing to see them beat off a formidable opponent by sheer force of numbers. The three are named respectively ' Ping,' ' Pong,' and ' Jock.' The first two are, I think, a pair, and are devoted to each other. Jock is allowed to play with them, and they are very kind to him. He is the funny man of the party, and goes through the most amusing antics and grimaces for the benefit of the other two. They are very bright and affectionate little birds, and love to sit in a row on my arm eating pea-nuts and biscuits. Before I leave the aviary I have to look round to make sure they are all there, for they are very fond of flying on to my back, and are so light that I might easily carry one out by mistake. They watch for me passing the aviary, and there is a shrill chorus of disappointment if I do not go inside. I tried keeping the two new ones with the original trio, but these chased the two new-comers about so that I was obliged to separate them. The operations were conducted in the most business like way, all three acting in unison to expel the intruders. Cactus Conures are fairly hardy, easy to keep, and cost but five or six shillings a pair. Mine have been for some time in the same aviary as my tiny Waxbills, with no bad results."

CORRESPONDENCE.

"JUDGING BRITISH BIRDS."

SIR,—As a rule I do not reply to the writers of letters under a *nom de plume*, but as I presume the writer of the letter under the above heading in "Bird Notes" for December is a fellow member of our Club, I feel it my duty to reply to him, seeing that I treated of the subject in question, in an article recently published.

Whoever are the Judge or Judges "Hardbill" refers to, I contend they deserve the hearty support of every member, and particularly the exhibitors of British Birds.

I am at loss to see the great superiority of Yellow Buntings over the other species named.

Mr. "Hardbill," you must admit it is hard lines for a good Bramblefinch, or Hawfinch, or even Chaffinch, to play third fiddle to two of what you call Yellowhammers, in a class of the kind in question. Variety Classes are not very satisfactory, even with the arrangement condemned by "Hardbill," but I am inclined to think Variety Classes would soon become Yellow Bunting Classes, pure and simple, if all our Judges acted on the lines suggested by you.

PEREGRINE BALL.

WILD BIRD NOTES.

SIR,—The cold weather is beginning to drive wild fowl to our coast. I have seen Wild Duck and Snipe, and have had the appearance of Wild Geese reported to me. Yesterday (Nov. 21st) I saw a Kingfisher on the sea coast. A small stream flowing from a marsh was evidently the reason of its being there. A pair which hung about a pond and ditch in our grounds are not in evidence at present. Goldfinches and Bullfinches are fairly plentiful with us this year.

MAGPIE.

NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD AND MULE CLUB.

Committee Meeting held at Headquarters on the 8th January, 1903.

Present: Mr. Robson (Chairman), Mr. Pollard (Vice-Chairman), Messrs. Vale, Morgan, Jones, C. Cooper, Maxwell, A. Plumbridge, Dewhurst, Frostick, Sandy, and the Hon. Secretary.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Agreed that A.O.V. in letter sent to Mr. Williams be altered to "A.O. Species." The Hon. Sec. was desired to order Medals for distribution amongst the winners of the season.

Mr. Pollard proposed "That voting papers be numbered, and, with the Hon. Solicitor's consent, be returned to him, and in any case of dispute or complaint, be referred to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman."

It was proposed and agreed "That the Hon. Sec. should communicatewith the Editor of 'Cage Birds' with a view of ascertaining who the Committeeman was who supplied the malicious statement referred to at the last meeting."

W. A. LOTT, *Hon. Sec.*,
NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD & MULE CLUB,
103, Cheapside, London, E.C.

PROPOSALS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Proposed by Hon. Sec. "That our meetings be held on the last Thursday in each month, instead of as now; also that twelve Judges be elected for British Birds and twelve for Hybrids."

Proposed by Mr. Dewhurst "That the Judges list of the N. B. B. & M. C. be struck out, and, in future, any member of the Club shall be eligible to Judge, if elected by a Society showing under the Club's patronage and support."

Proposed by Mr. A. Jones "That no British Bird or Hybrid be eligible to compete for our Medals that has been pepper fed."

Proposed by Mr. Peregrine Ball "That the following additions be made to the Rules:"

1.—That branches of the Club be formed, including certain Counties or Districts in England and Wales, with one for Scotland, under the management of a District Committee. Each District to elect two representatives on the General Committee.

2.—That all alterations to existing rules, or proposed new ones, be printed and sent to each member for his or her vote, as at present arranged for the election of Judges and Committee.

3.—That in future any member proposed to act as Judge be nominated by one member prior to voting papers being sent out. The whole who are nominated, with proposer's name, to be printed in the Magazine—the issue prior to voting papers being sent out.

4.—If no alteration is made in the election of the General Committee, gentlemen or ladies to form the Committee also to be nominated in same way as suggested for Judges, with names and proposers also printed on voting papers.

5.—That Section Judges be abolished in order that any person elected a Club Judge for Club Specials, Medals, &c., may take both British and Hybrid Classes without running the risk of being charged with doing (and the Committee allowing it) that which he was not elected for by the members to perform.

N.B.—All proposed alterations or new Rules by either District Committees or individual Members to be sent in to the General Secretary in time for publication in the Magazine, previous to voting papers being sent out.

WINNERS OF MEDALS UP TO DATE.

Manchester & Northern Counties Show—Mr. Ball, Gold; Mr. Lloyd-James, Gold.

L. C. B. A., Royal Aquarium—Mr. Maxwell, Gold; Mr. Cheney, Gold; Messrs. Browning & Williams, Gold; Mr. Judd, Silver; Mr. Ward. Silver.

Whitehaven Cage Bird Society—Mr. Wilson, Gold.

Hull Cage Bird Society—Messrs. Browning and Williams, Gold; Mr. Judd, Gold.

Gateshead & Dist. O. S.—Mr. Ball, Silver; Mr. Gough, Silver; Mr. Judd, Silver.

Leicester—Mr. Pendrigh, Gold; Mr. Howe, Gold.

STANDARDS.

SHORELARK.

Steadiness	30
Size	10
All markings very clear	20
Tail and flights unbroken, and in pink of condition	30
Staging	10
	100

SKYLARK.

Steadiness	30
Size	15
Bold markings throughout, fine quality of feather	15
Free action, plenty of crest, and no jumping to top of cage	20
Condition: tail must not be soiled or frayed	10
Staging	10
	100

WOODLARK.

Steadiness	20
Size	10
Colour rich yellowish brown, fine feather	15
Erect position on perch	10
Crest the larger the better	10
Deep distinct markings	10
Condition of tail and flights, not frayed, no jumping	15
Staging	10
	100

JACKDAW.

Steadiness	20
Size	10
Quality and condition	60
Staging	10
	100

JAY.

Steadiness	30
Size	10
Quality, condition of feather, markings clean cut, wings and tail intact, and bright colour on breast and throat	50
Staging	10
	100

CHOUGH.

Steadiness	20
Size	10
Colour dense black, quality and condition of feather (which must be perfect), edges of wings and tail intact, and perfect claws, and beak (the deeper the red the better) ..	60
Staging	10
	100

MAGPIE.

Steadiness	20
Size	10
Quality and condition—tail shewn in perfect condition, and the more white on wings and breast the better	50
Staging..	20
	100

NOTES.

I hope members have noticed the Committee's decision to discontinue sending "Bird Notes" to all those who have not paid their subscriptions.

I have again to earnestly ask members for more copy.

The lack of matter is a constant source of anxiety for next issues.

Our sister Society seems very fortunate in the matter of new members lately; it must be very gratifying to Mr. Fillmer. The F.B.C. must now have a larger number on roll of membership than the N. B. B. & M. C.

Already two members have lost medals through not having paid their subscriptions, as per rules.

Since the Committee Meeting I am pleased to find that our Hon. Solicitor has notified me of his willingness to act as Scrutineer at the forthcoming election of Committee, etc.

I am asked again to request Club Committees and others to insert "A.O. *Species*" not *Variety*.

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. See the gold medals of the L. & P. O. S. given by them at the Autumn Show in the British and Hybrid sections.

In view of contemplated alterations in "Bird Notes," entailing extra expense and more copy to supply, I appeal to all members to send me some names for membership; and let me remind them that the competition for the gold medal, to be given to the member introducing most members, remains open till the end of February.

Miss Craddock offered the Club a silver medal for the best essay or lecture sent in during the year. I should be pleased to receive the opinion of any member before we adjudicate upon the merits and demerits of those which have been sent in.

Just as we are going to Press, the Schedule of the

Cage Bird Carnival at the Crystal Palace is to hand. The fixture is some five or six days later than last year. A formidable list of Judges adorn the front page, and some new names are on the list : there are fourteen in all, experienced and otherwise.

The L. & P.O.S. Diplomas are conspicuous by the number offered in the various sections. What is their value when secured? Coming to the sections in which we are interested, I am woefully disappointed as to the soft-bills, while I congratulate the Show authorities upon a Hen Bullfinch Class, and the Limit Class for any finch, any nationality. But what is the meaning in Class 114, which states that one prize will be awarded to each species named, four equal firsts, or as heretofore ? A Robin Class is scheduled—a failure last year, but again inserted. No Nightingale and Blackcap Class, and only two classes for soft-bills, which should be extended at the expense of the long rows of Linnets, Goldfinches, etc., etc. We congratulate the L. & P.O.S. upon the use of the word "species," but not upon the "Redpoll" or any other "poll."

W. A. LOTT.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Members of the Avicultural Society who join the Club, are, under our rules, admitted without formal election. It is intended in future, when publishing the names of such members in the list of "New Members Elected," to indicate the fact of their being members of the Avicultural Society and to give the name of the member of the Club by whom they were introduced. Such "introductions," for the purpose of the "New Members Competition" (see page 212), will be considered equivalent to "proposals."

It is proposed to issue cloth cases for binding Vol.

I. of "Bird Notes," if sufficient numbers intimate their desire to purchase such cases. Will those who would like the cases be kind enough to communicate with Mr. Swan, who has the matter in hand? The cases will be of tasteful design, and the price, which will depend partly on the numbers who subscribe for them, will most probably be 1s.

HORATIO R. FILLMER,
Hon. Sec. FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
52, Ship Street, Brighton.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

MEDAL WON.

Leicester, Bronze: Mr. W. Oakey.

MEDAL GRANTED.

St. Helen's—9th and 10th Jan., 4 classes. One Bronze. Judge: Mr. Houlton.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

The Rev. REGINALD E. P. GORRINGE, 89, Cromwell Road, Peterborough.
Mr. D. W. NICOLL, 75, Glengate Street, Kirriemuir.
Miss E. L. JARDINE, 133, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea.
Mr. A. R. McKILL, Ashfield Lodge, Thorner, nr. Leeds.
Mr. CHARLES RICHARD LLOYD, Church Street, Market Harborough.
Mr. FRED. COCKAYNE, Craig Villa, 50, Thorneywood Rise, Nottingham.
Mr. T. NEWBOULD, Oakdene, Linthorpe, Middlesborough.
Mrs. OSBORNE, Lindiville, Cork.
Mr. WILLIAM R. FASEY, The Oaks, Holly Bush Road, Snaresbrook. (Mem. Avic. Society, introduced by Mr. FILLMER).

NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED.

Mr. R. P. Kitson, "Collaton," Torquay.
Proposed by Mr. Bond.

Mr. J. McDonagh, 13, Greencroft Gardens, S. Hampstead, N.W.
Mr. Arthur Cook, Glyncote, Kingsbury Rd., Gravelly Hill, Birmingham.
Mr. W. T. Jackson, Roslyn, Croham Road, Croydon.
Mr. C. H. T. Whitehead, c/o Messrs. King, King & Co., Bombay, India.
Mr. George Walton, Thirlmere, *via* Grasmere, Cumberland.
Mr. Thomas Spencer, Claerwen Villa, Jockey Road, Wylds Green, Warwickshire.
Proposed by Mr. Swan.

Miss E. M. Hincks, Terrace House, Richmond, Yorks.
Mr. H. E. Bliss, The Croft, Wallingford.
Proposed by Mr. Fillmer.

Mr. Gavin Alston has resigned his membership of the Club, and his resignation has been accepted by the Council.

OUR DEFICIT.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

It is with a feeling of sincere pleasure that I present the closing list of our successful endeavour to liquidate our deficit. On behalf of the Club I would again gratefully thank all who have responded to my appeal.

It now only remains for us to increase the membership of the Club and thereby place ourselves beyond the fear of future loss.

J. A. Swan.

	Purchased by	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged	..	£6	7	0
Miss Hopkinson's four Budgerigars	Mr. Osbaldeston	0	8	0
Mr. Fillmer's Catbird	Mr. Osbaldeston	0	3	0
Mr. Frostick's five books	Mr. Acutt Four non-members	0	2	7
		£7	0	7

	£	s.	d.
Original amount of deficit ..	£7	0	7
Amount received as above ..	7	0	7

THE BIRD MARKET.

Only members of the N. B. B. & M. C. or the F. B. C. can advertise here. The charge is one penny for every four words, address included. All advertisements relating to British birds must be sent to Mr. Lott, and all relating to foreign birds to Mr. Fillmer. The Hon. Secretaries of the respective Clubs are authorised to decline advertisements which they consider unsuitable.

Advertisements for the next issue must be received by the 15th of February.

White-headed Lovebirds, 4/6 pair; Budgerigars, 6/6 pair; Ringneck Parrakeets, 12/6 pair; Cockatiels, 13/6 pair; Black-headed Gouldians, 18/6 pair; Blue Barbets, 20/- each; cock Shâmas, 25/- each; Javan Parrakeets, 6/-; Rose-breasted Cockatoos, 10/6; Redrumps, 35/- pair; Cactus Conures, 7/6 each; Scarlet Tanagers, 42/- pair; Black Tanagers, 42/- pair; Blue Tanagers, 25/- each; Superb Tanagers, 25/- each; White-eared Bulbuls, 15/-; White-cheeked Bulbuls, 15/-; Red-vented Bulbuls, 8/6; Red-eared Bulbuls, 8/6; Common Mynah, 13/-; Grey Mynah, 12/6 each; Bearded Tits, 18/6 pair; Red-crested Cardinals, 6/6; Pope Cardinals, 10/6; Golden Weaver, 7/6, rare; Yellow-shouldered Weavers, 8/6; Green Weavers, 7/6; Half-masked Weavers, 5/-; hen Whydahs, 5/-; true pair Silky Cowbirds, 8/6; White Java Sparrows, 10/6 pair; Common Javas, 3/6 pair; Nonpareils, 7/6; Indigos, 15/6 pair, odd cocks 7/6; Ribbon Finches, 3/6 pair; Zebra Doves, 3/6; Diamond Doves, 21/- pair; cock Passerine Dove, 6/6; hen Necklace Dove, 10/6; Spicebirds, 3/6; Zebra Finches, 5/- pair; Black-headed Mannikins, 2/6 pair; cock Californian Quails, 6/- each; Zosterop Finches, 14/- pair; Pileated Finches, 10/- each; White-throated Finches, 18/6 pair; Brown-eared Conures, 25/- pair; Pekin Robins, 4/- each; one splendid Syke's Oriole, 35/-; pairs of Red Rosellas, aviary-bred; Blossom-headed Parrakeets, 21/- pair; Virginian Nightingales, 25/- pair; aviary-bred Blue-Jay, 50/-. Write for wants. All perfect birds. BURGESS, Bushey, Herts.

Young light Goldfinch-Canary, £2; hen Thrush, V.H.C., 5/-, or exchange cock.—Miss Estella Saywell,
Bromsgrove College, Worcestershire.

Lovely pair Rosellas, perfect plumage, hand bred, 40/-.
Cochrane, Clothier, St. Boswell's, Scotland.

Hen Pintailed Nonpareil, 8/6; pair Violet-necked Lorikeets, 2nd Norwich, 45/-; handsome Patagonian Conure, 3rd Norwich, 17/6; pair White-headed Nuns, 6/-; pair Zebra Finches, 4/6; grand talking Amazon Parrot, £6; good talking Grey Parrot, £5 10/-; pair Norwich Canaries, 10/6.
F. Yallop, 85, Prince of Wales Road, Norwich.

Two twice house moulted British Cock Goldfinches. 7/6 each.
W. N. Midgley, Winslow, Bucks.

☞ *All communications for "Bird Notes" in reference to the British Bird and Hybrid department should be addressed to the Hon. Sec. of the National British Bird and Mule Club, and all communications in reference to Foreign Birds to the Hon. Sec. of the Foreign Bird Club.*

MY AVIARY AND ITS INMATES.

By the Lady DUNLEATH.

It may interest some of our readers to hear about my birds. Last summer was a very bad one for breeding, and the only birds hatched in my aviary were Zebra Finches and Cutthroats. The Saffron Finches laid many eggs, but with no result.

I have added another division to my aviary, which now consists of a wooden cottage with thatched roof, 40ft. by 15ft., and 12ft. high, divided into three parts. No. 1, 21ft. wide; No. 2, 18ft.; No. 3, 15ft. In No. 1, I have two Ringed Barbary Doves with two young ones just able to fly, Zebra Finches, Cutthroats, Cordon Bleus, Grey Singing Finches, a few Canaries (the others I brought in for the winter), Golden-breasted Waxbills, Avadavats, Mannikins, Black-headed Nuns, Whydahs, Tiny Ground Dove, Bengalese, Spice Birds, and two Bullfinches. In No. 2, six Budgerigars, one Redrump, one Half-moon Parrakeet, one pair Indian Parrakeets, one Lemon-crested Cockatoo, one pair Cockatiels, Californian Quails, and one pair Silver Pheasants. In No. 3, one Virginian Nightingale, one Pope, eight Pekin Robins, two Nonpareils, two Indigo Birds, two Green Singing Finches, one Silky Cowbird, one Mocking Bird, one pair Golden Pheasants, one pair Nicobar Pigeons, seven Java Doves, one pair Zebra Doves, four Weavers, and two Parson Finches. In a large cage in my sitting-room, I have three Red-crested Cardinals, one Green Cardinal, and one Canary-winged Parrakeet waiting to go out in the spring.

I have a lovely Green Bulbul, the same as the one described in "Bird Notes" for January. I should like to know whether it is rare, as I gave 50s. for it eighteen months ago and was told it was very rare.* It is quite tame, and I feed it on Abraham's food and fruit. It does not care for mealworms. My aviary birds are very tame, and the Robins and Mocking Bird follow me for mealworms.

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* The Golden - fronted Green Bulbul (*Chloropsis aurifrons*) cannot be correctly described as "very rare." Although never common, and somewhat expensive, it is nearly always obtainable. —Ed.

I keep a small stove in the centre of No. 1 compartment and a lamp; these are hanging from the ceiling in a wire cage. The temperature has been down to 29° this winter; for ten days it was 30° at night, in spite of all windows and doors being shut. No matter what the weather is, I open the windows and all the birds fly out during the day. They are healthy, and have all moulted out of doors. As soon as the lamp is lighted in the afternoon they fly into the house and are shut in. The lamp and stove are lighted only at night. I feed on canary and millet, giving also soaked bread, Abrahams' food, and fruit for soft-billed birds. Mealworms I give as a treat. I let the birds out about ten every morning and they are shut up now at five. In summer everything is left open. In summer I hang up dozens of travelling cages (the wire replaced by wood with a round hole in it) from the wire roof by long wires, and these they nest in. I never find any of my birds mind my looking at their nests.

Last summer my pair of Virginian Nightingales were in the division with the Parrakeets; they made a lovely nest in a bush and hatched two young ones. One morning I found the Parrakeets had killed the mother and young. They paid no attention to them until the young were hatched.

Outside I have a Curassow, three European Cranes, a Flamingo, and one pair of Rheas; these all go about loose, returning each to their house at night. The Rhea laid 15 eggs last summer, but all were clear owing to the birds being quite young. Since January 1st the temperature in one division of the aviary has been: lowest 29°, highest 54°. I account for the birds doing so well by the fact of my having a lighted lamp all night, so that they can feed at any hour. I used to lose many birds at night before I started the lamp, but this winter, and also last winter, none have died. I consider light at night to be of the utmost importance in an aviary where small foreign birds are kept.

THE REDSTART.

By S. A. Sandy.

I think this bird can safely be described as the most gorgeously plumaged of our summer visitors, and one that is much admired, both at home and when seen on the Show Bench, for its bold carriage and variety of colour. The peculiar shaking of the tail seldom fails to attract attention.

The Redstart (or, as it is called in some parts of the country, the "Firetail") usually arrives about the second week in April, and seems to frequent the same localities year after year. If the day be sunny, and you hit upon the right spot, you are almost sure to hear his shrill and pleasant song, as he will probably be sitting at the top of some tall tree—but to catch a glimpse of him is a more difficult matter. You will have to watch, and wait patiently until he descends to some likely spot, frequently an ant hill, in search of food: when, with a pair of glasses, you should be able to get a good view of him.

In the spring the adult male bird has the throat glossy jet black; fore-head white, extending, in an old bird, as far back as the eye; back light slate blue; wings dark greyish brown; breast bright reddish brown, lighter towards the under tail coverts, rump and tail chestnut, except the two centre feathers, which are a darker brown; legs almost black. They vary somewhat in size, but the average is slightly over five inches. When seen against a background of bushes with the leaves just out and of a fresh green tint, the bird looks very beautiful. The flight is very like that of the Flycatcher, in fact the Redstart, to my thinking, resembles that bird very much (except, of course, in coloring); especially in the way in which it will dart out from the top of a bush for a fly or small moth, and then return to the same bush.

As a pet or an exhibition bird, the Redstart is very desirable, although, from my own experience, I should say it would be far more esteemed for the latter purpose, if it could be made to understand that a perfect tail is a necessary appendage to an exhibition bird. If I were asked to express an opinion as to which of our numerous small insectivorous birds was most expert at breaking its tail and flight feathers, I should have no hesitation in deciding for the bird under discussion. Whether I have had singularly unfortunate specimens or not I cannot say, but I think it is the general complaint.

One thing I have found—the Redstart is easily "meated off" even in the spring, when an adult bird should be on its egg and ants' egg food in a week or ten days. Having procured a specimen (which, thanks to the Wild Birds' Protection Act, is not an easy matter) you should give him daily some thirty mealworms for the first two days, then hard-boiled egg and a little crushed sweet biscuit, with (say) twenty mealworms broken in halves and mixed well in with the egg for the next two days, and so reduce the quantity of mealworms down to six per day according to the readiness with which he eats the food. After the first four days add a spoonful of soaked ants' eggs, and having got him to eat this mixture freely, he should go on very well. Redstarts are very fond of green caterpillars, earwigs, small beetles, spiders, and, in fact almost every form of insect, including the butterfly. They also appreciate elderberries when obtainable.

In selecting an exhibition bird, you should select first of all a large deep-colored bird, and one that stands well up on the perch, with the colors well defined.

I find they do very well in an aviary from the time they arrive until the end of September, when they require to be taken indoors to avoid the cold nights. I have found that if two are placed in an aviary they will fight almost immediately, but if three or more are put in together they agree very well and do not injure each other to any extent. A cage, however, say 2ft. by 10ins. by 15ins. high would be suitable. The bath must not be overlooked, as Redstarts are very fond of bathing.

Redstarts leave their breeding ground immediately they have finished moulting, although I believe they do not actually leave England until the end of September. After the autumn moult the breast and throat feathers are edged with white, which gives the general plumage a very pretty effect, although from an exhibition point of view I think they look best without the white edging. Redstarts are much more easily caught in the autumn and are then very readily "meated-off." I have found them eat hard boiled egg the second day after capture. The young ones are of very little use for exhibition the first year—in fact for a large Show they would be no good at all.

The hens soon get very tame in confinement, but beyond this they have very little to recommend them. The general colour is a greyish brown, rather lighter on the forehead, and the tail feathers are much duller. The young cocks, after the first autumn moult, are very like the hens excepting for a little breast colour and the brighter tail feathers. They seldom come into adult plumage until the April after they are hatched.

The chief cause of death, so far as my experience goes, is that the bird gets some affection in the throat which causes it to "gape" continually, and, in the course of about a week, to die. I have tried several remedies, but so far have been unable to find a cure. Perhaps some of our members can give me a few hints as to the proper treatment.

THE TRIALS OF A HYBRID BREEDER.

By Wm. C. Cunningham.

Some fourteen years ago, when quite a youth, I put up a few pairs for hybrid breeding, and was so far successful that from a Welsh cock Goldfinch and a Scotch hen Bully I had five young birds living, when— I went off for a holiday. My father (who was not a fancier) undertook to attend to the birds. But I came back to find only one of the hybrids alive. Three had died, and the fourth had escaped from the aviary. The remaining youngster, however, did well and turned out to be a cock.

The next Spring I put up a larger number of pairs, and was hoping for great things, when a dire calamity befel me, and in one night I lost 22 birds. In my room I had an oil-stove: this must have been turned up too far, for when I opened the birdroom door I found the place filled with smoke and soot, and all the poor birds either dead or dying.

The affair almost broke my heart, and I did not try for hybrids again until last season, when I mated five pairs. I managed to rear four from Linnet and Bully: and if I had had good feeders, I think I should have had a dozen young birds from this pair alone, as nearly every egg the hen laid was fertile. I had also fertile eggs from Goldie-Bully, and Redpoll-Bully. The latter hen laid 25 eggs, and hope ran high when I found that one of the first nest of eggs was filling up nicely. Great was the disappointment, however, when the egg did not hatch. The young bird was fully developed, and must have died not more than a day before it was due.

Another egg from this pair was fertile, but I think it went the way of the first. If it did hatch the bird only lived a few days. I am not *quite* sure on this point, for I had two Linnet-Bully eggs and a Redpoll-Bully under the same hen, all with birds in them. Two of them hatched but only one young one lived. The one that died was certainly much smaller than the other, but this might not mean anything.

I tried both cages and an outdoor aviary. The Redpoll-Bully were in a cage, and the Linnet-Bully outside. The former hen laid 23 eggs in a Greenfinch's old nest which I fixed in a corner of the cage with a few twigs, and two other eggs at the bottom of the cage. She always sat, for a few days only, after laying a clutch.

The Bullfinch hen paired to the Linnet built a fine nest, and laid in a small German cage. She sat most faithfully, but did not feed a young Canary which I gave her to hatch.

I am sorry to say that I lost the Bully hen which was mated to the Redpoll. I am afraid I made a mistake in allowing her to go to nest so often. I think that laying so many eggs as 23 is far too great a strain on any hen, and intend to "restrict the output" this season by separating the birds occasionally.

On the whole, I suppose I was fairly fortunate compared with other fanciers, but I am much disappointed at not getting a Redpoll-Bully hybrid reared.

REVIEW.

The American Bird Magazine. Published by Chas. K. Reed, Worcester, Mass., U.S.A. Foreign Subscription 5/3 *per annum post free.*

I have recently received specimen copies of "The American Bird Magazine," and, as a relative of our own "Bird Notes," it may interest those of our members who have not seen a copy to hear a few particulars about it.

As with "Bird Notes," it is a monthly publication, but, unlike our Magazine, it deals solely with the habits of birds in their wild state, so its contents are apt to be a trifle disappointing to the aviculturist, inasmuch as nothing is mentioned relating to the treatment of the various species in captivity. On the other hand, the lover of wild bird life is thoroughly catered for, and the details respecting every bird mentioned are minute in the extreme.

The book is about a third larger than our own, and the January number (which commences Vol. III.) contains some forty pages of reading matter, beside advertisements. The literary portion is well written, and is illustrated with reproductions of photographs and with coloured plates. Several of the latter are by the three-colour process: some might have been omitted with advantage, from a purely artistic point of view, though they serve the purpose of giving the reader a better idea of the bird portrayed, than the mere printed description could do. There are others however (in the December issue particularly) which are really very fine: those representing "the Green-winged Teal," "Ruffed Grouse on nest," and three or four illustrating the home life of the Chickadee, being very natural.

A long and interesting account is given of the Louisiana or Crimson-headed Tanager. As its name implies, the bird has a crimson head, and the neck, part of the breast, and back, are of the same colour, which gradually shades into yellow. There is a broad streak of black across the back, and then the bright colouring is continued to the tail, which is black, as are also the 'wings with the exception of a yellow shoulder and whitish yellow wing coverts. "The nest is built on a pine tree, "at the end of a slender bough, about twenty feet from "the ground; this position being chosen as a protection "against the chipmunk, one of the two most dreaded "enemies of nesting birds in the Sierras. The male does "not share the task of incubation, but is otherwise a "model of gallantry and devotion."

The book also contains "Identification Charts," each chart portraying about a dozen birds in their natural colours: if these are continued, they should, in time, form a valuable work of reference. An "Answer to Queries" page might prove helpful at times to any of our members who obtain specimens of rare American birds which they are unable to identify.

In concluding, I might add that "The American Bird Magazine" is not the property of any Society, but is purely a financial venture. As a factor in the service of ornithology we wish it a useful and successful career.

J. A. SWAN.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BUDGERIGARS.

SIR,—I think that it may be interesting to readers of "Bird Notes" to know that, during the hard frost in January, I had two young Budgerigars hatched out (and they seem well and hardy) in an outdoor aviary where the birds only get a little afternoon sun.

E. OLLARD.

DOUBLE-BANDED FINCHES.

SIR,—I kept my Doublebands out in my garden aviary during the bitter spell of weather in January, and they stood it marvellously well, looking pictures of perfect health.

LUCY DUTTON.

DEALERS' NAMES FOR BIRDS.

SIR,—Can any of our readers tell me to what birds the three following names refer, all of which I have recently seen in the advertisements of various dealers?

1. "Brazilian Blue Chaffinch."
2. "Patativa Finch." (Sometimes spelt "Patatia.")
3. "Crested Firefinch."

E. HOPKINSON.

FOREIGN BIRD QUERIES AND REPLIES.

TREATMENT OF A CARDINAL.

Question : Would you be so kind as to tell me what will be the best thing to give a Cardinal which is going somewhat loose in feather. He is already through the moult, but does not tighten in feather as one would like.

At present I am feeding on canary-seed and millet, and three or four grubs in the morning.

Any information or assistance you can give me in the matter would be highly valued. G. B.

Answer : I should give the Cardinal a little "Ferrocal" in his drinking water. Also some fruit, such as a ripe *soft* apple.

I am not quite sure what you mean by "grubs," but if they are mealworms I think I should reduce them to two a-day, except when moulting.

I should stop the millet—if it is *white* millet. Spray or Indian millet is always wholesome for *all* birds. But canary is the best seed for Cardinals. You might with advantage give a few hempseeds occasionally.

TREATMENT OF A GREEN BULBUL.

Question : If you have had any experience with the Gold-fronted Fruit-sucker (*Chloropsis aurifrons*) miscalled by dealers the Malabar Green Bulbul, I should feel much obliged for the benefit of your advice. I am anxious to have one if you think it would thrive under the following conditions : I should have to keep it in a good sized cage in an ordinary living room, which naturally varies very much in temperature. Is it absolutely necessary that they should have fruit daily ? — one might somtimes run short. H. S.

Answer : I have kept the Golden-fronted Fruit-sucker, which is generally, though not quite correctly, called the Malabar Green Bulbul. It would live well enough under the conditions you name, and is a charming cage-bird.

It is certainly not absolutely necessary that it should have fruit daily, and no doubt if supplied with food containing a large proportion of mashed potato or grated carrot, the fruit might be dispensed with for a time. But a plentiful supply of fruit would be conducive to its health. It will require a good insectivorous mixture in addition to the fruit, and a few mealworms.

BREEDING THE CAPE CANARY AND THE BENGALESE.

Question: Can you tell me how to breed Cape Canaries and Bengalese? E. B.

Answer: There are several species to which the name of "Cape Canary" is occasionally applied, but most probably the Grey-necked Serin (*Serinus canicollis*) is intended. It would build an open nest in a Canary nest-box or in a bush, and would no doubt rear its young on any mixture containing egg, such as one would supply to Canaries when breeding. It would be desirable to supply plenty of green food, and also crushed hemp-seed if eaten. I should also give spray or Indian millet. If a healthy pair are placed in a good-sized aviary where they are free from interruption, there would be a very good chance of their breeding successfully.

The Bengalese is most easily bred in a roomy cage or in a small bird-room aviary without other occupants. A box nest is required, which can be made from a cigar box or a travelling cage. Fine hay will suffice for making the nest. The sexes can be distinguished by the fact that only the cock sings. Not more than one pair should be kept together when breeding. The young can be reared on any food suitable for young Canaries.

NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD AND MULE CLUB.

Committee Meeting held at Headquarters on th 5th February, 1903.

Present: Mr. Robson (Chairman), Mr. Pollard (Vice-Chairman), Messrs. A. Plumbridge, Sandy, Vale, Merrifield, Tolhurst, Dewhurst, Morgan, A. Jones, C. Cooper, Maxwell, Frostick, and the Hon. Secretary and friends.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Letters were read from Mrs. Comyns Lewer, Miss Craddock, and Mr. Carl.

A Sub-Committee was formed to adjudicate upon the best lecture or article sent in during the past year. The winner to be announced in March "Bird Notes."

A letter from Mr. Kershaw was referred to the Annual General Meeting.

In reference to the application from the Editress of "The Feathered World," *in re* the Standards to be published in the new edition of Bradburn's "British Birds," Mr. Frostick proposed that permission be given to publish such Standards as have been printed, upon complying with a few conditions. (Carried).

Mr. Tolhurst brought before the Committee a matter which had appeared in the fancy press, and as to which there had been no little controversy, namely, the question as to whether a Nuthatch is a soft- or a hard-bill. Mr. Tolhurst taking it that it was quite time that this Committee settled the matter for good, and that an authoritative statement should be made in view of the two recent decisions of Judges upon our list. The Committee unanimously decided that it is an insectivorous bird and should not be shown in the Seed-eating Classes. In view of what had taken place, Mr. Frostick intimated his willingness to supplement his previous Classification by submitting to the Committee a list of birds eligible for the various Classes. The offer was accepted with thanks.

Mr. Frostick introduced the subject of the Club having a Club Show of British Birds and Hybrids, at Headquarters, during the next month. It was agreed to carry out the same with Mr. Plumbridge as Hon. Secretary of the Show. (Full particulars accompany "Bird Notes.") The Committee decided to grant one gold medal of the Club for competition at the Show.

W. A. LOTT, *Hon. Sec.*,
NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD & MULE CLUB,
103, Cheapside, London, E. C.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

A circular was recently forwarded to the members of our Club, bearing the name of the London Cage Bird Association, and appealing for subscriptions for a certain object. This appeal purports to be made "with the kind co-operation of the Secretaries of the N. B. B. & M. C. and F. B. C." While I have every sympathy with the object of the appeal, I should like it to be understood that I knew nothing whatever of the intention to circularise our members, and am therefore guiltless of the "co-operation" attributed to me.

Members who join the Club between the time of the publication of this issue of "Bird Notes" and the 1st of May, will not be expected to pay the subscription for the year ending 30th April next. They will, of course, not be entitled to Vol. I. of "Bird Notes," but will receive all the parts of Vol. II., commencing with next month's issue.

Members will, I feel sure, be very pleased with the improvements in "Bird Notes," when they see next month's issue. A card cover will be adopted, and it is hoped that this will afford sufficient protection in the post, so that, in spite of the larger size of the paper, the Magazine will travel at least as safely as it does at present. If, however, there are any members who would prefer their copies to be protected by strawboard, I am willing to undertake to so pack them on receipt of an extra subscription of 1/- per annum, to cover the cost of board and extra postage. This 1/- *must*, in every case, be prepaid.

HORATIO R. FILLMER,
Hon. Sec., FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
52, Ship Street, Brighton.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

Mr. R. P. KITSON, "Collaton," Torquay.

Mr. J. McDONAGH, 13, Greencroft Gardens, S. Hampstead, N.W.

Mr. ARTHUR COOK, Glyncote, Kingsbury Rd., Gravelly Hill, Birmingham.

Mr. W. T. JACKSON, Roslyn, Croham Road, Croydon.

Mr. C. H. T. WHITEHEAD, c/o Messrs. King, King & Co., Bombay, India.

Mr. GEORGE WALTON, Thirlmere, *via* Grasmere, Cumberland.

Mr. THOMAS SPENCER, Claerwen Villa, Jockey Road, Wylde Green, Warwickshire.

Miss E. M. HINCKS, Terrace House, Richmond, Yorks.

Mr. H. E. BLISS, The Croft, Wallingford.

NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED.

Mrs. Rogerson, Fleurville, Cheltenham.

Mr. J. Harman, The Bridge, Wealdstone, Harrow.

Mrs. Healey, 18, Albert Road, Regent's Park, N.W.

Mr. Henry Dart, 53, Richmond Road, Kingston-on-Thames. *Proposed by* Mr. Swan.

Mr. George Thwaites, Dunedin Villa, Northampton Road, Market Harborough. *Proposed by* Mr. Lloyd.

Mr. J. H. Walker, F.R.H.S., 20, Moorgate Street, Leicester. *Proposed by* Mr. Oakey.

Mr. E. Perkins, Chester Hill, Woodchester, Glos. *Proposed by* Mr. Osbaldeston.

Mr. Hermann Kestermann, 50, Grafton Street, Manchester. *Proposed by* Mr. Fillmer.

The following persons, not having paid their subscriptions due on the 1st of May last, have ceased to be members of the Club. In each case three applications by letter have been made (the last by registered post on the 14th of November, 1902), but no reply whatever has been received:

Mr. J. W. Hincks, Stack House, Uppingham Road, Leicester.

Mr. F. Dunstone, 40, Round Hill Crescent, Brighton.

Mr. E. R. Phillips, 6, Park View, Co. Wicklow.

THE BIRD MARKET.

Only members of the N. B. B. & M. C. or the F. B. C. can advertise here. The charge is one penny for every four words, address included. All advertisements relating to British birds must be sent to Mr. Lott, and all relating to foreign birds to Mr. Fillmer. he Hon. Secretaries of the respective Clubs are authorised to decline advertisements which they consider unsuitable.

Advertisements for the next issue must be received by the 15th of March.

Budgerigars, fine plumaged birds, all bred in my outdoor aviaries, 8/6 pr., 3 prs. for 23/-. Arthur Cook, Kingsbury Road, Gravelly Hill, Birmingham.

CASES FOR BINDING "BIRD NOTES."

I gladly avail myself of our Editor's invitation to give the members a few further particulars about the cases for binding the first volume of our magazine.

To begin with, they will be made of a dark green ribbed cloth, with appropriate gold lettering on back and side, and the general effect will, I hope, be artistic and attractive. The price will be 1s. each, post free 1s. 2d.

I have also made arrangements whereby members can, if they so prefer it, send me their back numbers and I will get them bound up complete for an extra charge of 9d., or 1s. 9d. for case and binding and 4d. for postage. Members availing themselves of this offer will, of course, pay the carriage of the books to myself. Unless specially stated, the covers and advertisement pages will *not* be bound at the end of the magazine, but will be destroyed.

I must please ask for a remittance to accompany all orders, and that P.O's should be sent where possible. If stamps are more convenient, thirteen should be sent for each 1s., as the Postal authorities charge a commission for exchanging them for money.

When cases only are ordered, members must say whether it is intended to bind up the five numbers of "Foreign Bird Notes" with "Bird Notes" proper, as the cases have had to be made in two sizes, to accommodate the extra pages.

I shall be very pleased if the members of our collaborating Society will regard these offers as being made also for their benefit, and hope they will not fail to take advantage of them.

Any profits accruing from the sale of cases, etc., will be credited to "The Foreign Bird Club."

J. A. SWAN,
87, Lower Kennington Lane. S.E.

INDEX TO NAMES OF CONTRIBUTORS.

The asterisk is affixed to contributions which appear in the Correspondence pages.

PAGE

ALDERSON, ROSIE
  My Shamahs 62
  * Green Singing Finch—Goldfinch hybrids 290

BAKER, M. E.
  A Novel Diet for Soft-bills 257

BALL, PEREGRINE
  Patience Exemplified 158
  Judging British Birds 341

BELL, DAVID
  The Migration of the Swallow and House Martin ... 182

BROWNING, R.
  Bits from a Birdroom 224
  More Bits from a Birdroom 308

CHAMBERLAIN, C. B. D'EYNCOURT
  * Substituted Entries 16, 30
  * Breeding Buntings 72

COOPER, C.
  The Carpenters of the Woods 280

CUNNINGHAM, WM. C.
  The Trials of a Hybrid Breeder 358

CUSHNY, CHARLES
  * Ornithological Surgery... 161
  * The Cuckoo 206

DUNLEATH, The Lady
  Breeding the Spice Bird 52
  My Aviary and its inmates 353

DUTTON, LUCY
  Breeding the Golden-breasted Waxbill 66
  Aviary Notes 227
  * Double-banded Finches 361

FILLMER, HORATIO R.
  Hints for Beginners 14
  The Wood-Swallow Shrikes 68
  The American Cat-bird 107
  A Foreign Aviculturist's Bookshelf ... 203, 221
  The Double-banded or Bicheno's Finch 253
  The Water-Rail in Captivity 307
  The Spectacle Birds 329

FOSTER, W. H.
  * Methods of Warming Aviaries 54

FROSTICK, JOHN
  "Meating-off" and Feeding Soft-bills 93, 121, 145, 169
  * Food for Nightingales 133
  * Point Prizes 134
  "Silkworms as Bird Food" 201

PAGE

GALLOWAY, PERCY F. M.
The Goldcrest... 273

GORTER, ALYS V.
* A Homing Zebra-finch 90

HOPKINSON, E.
My Experience of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak ... 4
* A Question of Identity 16
Some Interesting Birds at the Palace Show... ... 25
* West African Birds 110
The Birds of West Africa 180
Birds from the Gambia 269, 297
* Dealers' Names for Birds 361

HOULTON, CHARLES
Some Notes on the Hybrid Section at the Crystal Palace Show 104
The Chaffinch... 129

HOWE, F.
* Show Classification for Foreign Birds 315

JONES, ARTHUR
* Methods of Warming Aviaries 53

LOTT, W. A.
British Birds at the Crystal Palace 99
Notes 138, 209, 261
* British Birds at the Crystal Palace 132

LOWNE, W.
The Bearded Titmouse in Norfolk 251

MAYER, E. D. NICHOLAS
Hints on Hybrid-breeding for Beginners 245

MARSHALL, THOMAS
The Siskin 327

OLLARD, E.
* Budgerigars 361

OSBALDESTON, W.
* The Forthcoming Palace Show 73
* The Crested Mynah 73
* A Shamah Concert 74
The Olive Cuba Finch 88
The Toucans 103
* Point Prizes 161

PERKINS, TOM
Hull Show 334

PHILIP, ANDREW
The Lavender Finch 160

QUIN, RANDOLPH
A Humming Bird in London 10
* How to encourage the breeding of new species ... 17
Common Birds 29
* The Humming Bird in London 55
* Suitable Birds for Cages 56
The Small-billed Parrakeets 97
* Common or Rare? 258

PAGE

RETTICH, ALBERT
A Chaffinch Singing Match 193
The Tree Sparrow 220
The Bullfinch 300

SANDY, S. A.
The Nuthatch 200
A Visit to a London Fancier 223
The Stonechat 283
The Redstart 355

SIMPSON, C. S.
On Judging Foreign Birds 46
Parrots and Parrakeets 126, 147, 173, 197, 241, 304
* Outdoor Aviaries—a suggestion 205
The Green Bulbul 332

STOREY, JAMES
* Grey Parrots 17

SWAN, J. A.
Foreign Bird Keeping: an appreciation 7
Foreign Birds: their adaptability and individuality... 83
In search of a Madagascar Weaver 153
* Point Prizes 185
Our Deficit 214, 240, 267, 296, 322, 350
The Indigo Bunting 217
Foreign Birds at the Zoo 247, 277
"The American Bird Magazine" 359
Cases for binding "Bird Notes" 368

SWAYSLAND, WALTER
Bird Seed 12

TOMMASSI, GUILIA (Countess BALDELLI)
* Hybrid Mannikins 110
* A Cure for Feather-eating 111
* Food for Nightingales 111
* A Salmon-crested Cockatoo 133
* Silkworms as Bird Food 185
* Aviculture in Florence 314

TOWNSEND, STANLEY M.
Tig Timothy 13
The Archbishop Tanager 65
* A Marvellous Recovery 256
* Episcopal Birds 257

TURNBER, F.
* Ill-fated Albinos 229

VALE, W. H.
Hybrid Breeding 150, 177

VERRALL, J. H.
* The Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and other birds ... 33

WEBSTER, A. BULLOCK
Foreign Birds at the Barnstaple Show 289
Bird Notes from the "Uganda Protectorate" ... 336

WIENER, AUG. F.
* "The Humming Bird in London" 31

WILLIAMS, MARGARET
On Bird Buying 49

PAGE

WILSON, ISABELLA BELFORD
  A Mixed Collection 28
  * Methods of Warming Aviaries 54
  * Bullfinches Nesting in Captivity 204
  * Spice Bird—Bengalese 205
  Birdroom Notes 325

INDEX TO THE TITLES OF ARTICLES, ETC.

The asterisk is affixed to contributions which appear in the Correspondence pages.

PAGE

Aquarium, Foreign Birds at the 42, 310
Archbishop Tanager 65
Aviary and its inmates, My 353
Aviary Notes 227

* Baldness 37, 89
Barnstaple Show, Foreign Birds at 289
Bearded Titmouse in Norfolk... 251
Birdroom Notes 325
Bird Seed 12
Bits from a Birdroom 224
Bits from a Birdroom, More 308
* Breeding of New Species, How to encourage 17
Breeding the Cape Canary and the Bengalese 363
* Budgerigars 361
* Budgerigars, Handrearing 109
* Bullfinches Nesting in Captivity 204
Bullfinch, The 300
* Buntings, Breeding... ... ...57, 72
Buying, On Bird 49

* Canaries with Foreign Birds, Keeping 36
Cape Canary and the Bengalese, Breeding the 363
Cardinal, Treatment of a 362
Carpenters of the Woods 280
Cases for binding "Bird Notes" 368
Cat-bird, The American 107
Chaffinch 129
Chaffinch Singing Match 193
* Cockatoo, A Salmon-crested 133
* Colifichet 57
Common Birds 29
* Common or Rare? 258
* Crested Mynah 73
Cuba Finch, Olive 88
* Cuckoo 206

* Dealers' Names for Birds 361
Double-banded or Bicheno's Finch 253
* Double-banded Finches 301

* Episcopal Birds 257

* Feather-eating, A Cure for 111
* Florence, Aviculture in 314

* Food for Nightingales 111, 133
FOREIGN BIRD CLUB :
" Bird Notes " Prize Competition 190
Balance Sheet... 191
Our Deficit 214, 240, 266, 296, 322, 350
The Secretary's Notes
1, 21, 41, 61, 77, 264, 293, 319, 348, 365
Notices to Members 20, 38, 60, 76, 92, 117, 141, 165
189, 212, 236, 266, 294, 320, 349, 366
Regulations as to Medals 236, 320
Foreign Aviculturist's Bookshelf :
Gedney's " Foreign Cage Birds " 203
Wiener's " Foreign Cage Birds " 221
Foreign Bird Club's Classifications for Shows ... 69, 237
Foreign Bird Keeping : an appreciation 7
Foreign Birds : their adaptability and individuality ... 83
Foreign Birds at the Zoo 247, 277
Foreign Bird Queries and Replies 362

Gambia, Birds from the 269, 297
Gold-crest 273
Golden-breasted Waxbill, Breeding the 66
Green Bulbul, The 332
Green Bulbul, Treatment of 362
* Green Singing-finch—Goldfinch 290
* Grey Parrots 17

* Heat an Aviary, How to 34
Hints for Beginners... 14
* Homing Zebra Finch 90
Hull Show 334
Humming Bird in London 10, 31, 55
Hybrid Breeder, Trials of a 358
Hybrid Breeding 150, 177
Hybrid Breeding for Beginners, Hints on 245
* Hybrid Mannikin 110

* Identity, A Question of 16
* Ill-fated Albinos... 229
Indigo Bunting 217

* Judging British Birds 315, 341
Judging Foreign Birds, On 46

Lavender Finch 160
* Lovebirds, Madasgascar 108

Madagascar Weaver, In search of a 153
Market, The Bird 216, 240, 268, 323, 351

Market, The Foreign Bird Club ... 19, 38, 59, 75, 91, 120, 144, 167, 192
" Meating-off" and Feeding Soft-bills 93, 121, 145, 169
Migration of the Swallow and House Martin ... 182
Mixed Collection, A ... 28
My Aviary and its inmates ... 353

* Names for Birds, Dealers' ... 361
NATIONAL BRITISH BIRD & MULE CLUB:
    Minutes of Meetings 112, 135, 162, 187, 208, 230, 258, 291, 316, 342, 364
    Notes by the Hon. Sec. ... 117, 138, 209, 261, 346
    Standards ... 137, 260, 292, 318, 345
    Show Classifications ... 232
* Nest Boxes ... 75
* Novel Diet for Soft-bills ... 257
Nuthatch ... 200

* Ornithological Surgery ... 161
* Ortolan Bunting ... 109
* Outdoor Aviaries—a suggestion ... 205

Palace, British Birds at the ... 99, 132
Palace, Foreign Birds at the ... 23, 79, 285
Palace Show, Some Notes on the Hybrid Section at the ... 104
Palace Show, Some interesting birds at the ... 25
* Palace Show, The forthcoming ... 73
Parrots and Parrakeets ... 126, 147, 173, 197, 241, 304
Patience Exemplified ... 158
* Point Prizes ... 134, 161, 185

R. L. S's Silverbills ... 58
* Recovery, A Marvellous ... 256
* Red Mite ... 37
Redstart, The ... 355
Reviews:
    " Parrakeets," by D. Seth-Smith ... 184, 339
    " Meeting-off and Feeding Soft-bills," by J. Frostick ... 228
    " Uganda Protectorate," by Sir H. Johnstone ... 336
    " American Bird Magazine " ... 359
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, My experience of the ... 4
* Rose-breasted Grosbeak and other birds ... 33

* Saffron Finches ... 36
* Shamah Concert, A ... 74
Shamahs, My ... 62
Sheffield Show ... 58
* Show Classifications for British Birds ... 315
Shrikes, Mynahs, and Woodlarks ... 55
* Silkworms as Bird Food ... 185, 201
Siskin, The ... 327
* Spice Bird—Bengalese ... 205
Spice Bird, Breeding the ... 52
Small-billed Parrakeets ... 97
Spectacle Birds, The ... 329
Stonechat ... 283
* Substituted Entries... ... 16, 30
* Suitable Birds for Cages ... 32, 56

Tig Timothy 13
Treatment of a Cardinal 362
,, ,, Green Bulbul 362
Tree Sparrow 220
Trials of a Hybrid Breeder 358
Toucans 103

Veteran Blackcap, A 331
Visit to a London Fancier 223

* Warming Aviaries, Methods of 53
Water Rail in Captivity, The 307
* Weaver Playfellows... 74
West Africa, The Birds of 180
* West African Birds 110
Wild Bird Notes 255, 342
Wood-Swallow Shrikes 68

INDEX TO THE NAMES OF BIRDS.

PAGE
Amazon Parrots ... 149, 173
Aurora Finch 272

Bearded Titmouse 251
Bengalese 363
Bengalese—Spicebird ... 205
Bicheno's Finch 26, 227, 253
Blackcap 331
Budgerigar ... 109, 325, 361
Bulbul, Green ... 332, 353, 362
Bullfinch 204, 300

Caique 175
Cape Canary 363
Cardinal 362
Catbird, American 107
Chaffinch 129, 193
Cockatiel 326
Cockatoo, Salmon-crested.. 133
Conure, Cactus 340
Conures 241
Cuckoo... 206

Double-banded Finch
26, 227, 253, 361
Fire Finches ... 110, 180, 269

Golden-crested Wren ... 273
Golden-shouldered
Parrakeet 27
Green Singing Finch 78, 299

Humming Bird 10, 31, 32, 41, 55
Hybrid Finches 150, 177, 224,
245, 290, 308, 358

Indigo Bunting 217

Jackdaw 263
Java Sparrow 326

Kingfisher 223
,, Australian Sacred 27
Koal 207

Lavender Finch ... 160, 271
Long-tailed Grassfinch ... 227
Lorikeet... 184
Lovebird, Madagascar ... 108
Lovebirds 197

Macaws 199
Madagascar Weaver ... 153
Mannikin, Hybrid 110

PAGE
Martin, House 182
Mynah, Crested 73

Nightingale 111
Nonpareil 57, 72
Nuthatch 200

Olive Cuba Finch ... 26, 88
Ortolan Bunting 109

Paradise, Bird of 277
Parrakeet, All-green ... 98
,, Barraband's ... 244
,, Blue-bonnet ... 307
,, Broad-tailed ... 304
,, Canary-winged 98
,, Crimson-winged 244
,, King 244
,, Many-coloured 306
,, Masked 304
,, Orange-flanked
13, 98
,, Quaker 242
,, Red-shining ... 304
,, Ring-necked ... 243
,, Small-billed 98, 243
,, Tovi 98
,, Tui 98
Parrot, Amazon ... 149, 173
,, Eclectus 176
,, Grey... 17, 147, 339
,, Hanging 198
,, Hawk-headed ... 174
,, Jardine's 175
,, Passerine 198
,, Senegal 175
,, Vasa 175
Pheasant, Hybrid 162
Purple Finch 33, 34

Quail, Indian Rain 228

Reddish Finch 26
Red-faced Finch 25
Redstart 355
Rhea 354
Robin 229
Rock-Sparrow 299
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 4, 33
Rose Finch 33, 34
Rufous-tailed Grassfinch ... 25

Sacred Kingfisher,
Australian 27
Saffron Finch 36, 37

PAGE

Scarlet Grosbeak ... 33, 34
Shamah 62, 74
Silverbill 30, 58
Siskin 327
Sparrow, Tree 220
Spectacle Birds 329
Spicebird 41, 52
Spicebird—Bengalese ... 205
Stonechat 283
Swallow 182

Tanager, Archbishop ... 65
Tanager, Louisiana 360
Tanagers 249
Toucans 103, 248
Touracous 248

PAGE

Two-coloured Mannikin ... 258

Water Rail 307
Waxbill, Golden-breasted ... 66
Waxbills 180
Weaver, Red-headed ... 258
Weavers 180, 297
White-eared Grassfinch ... 26
Whydah, Long-tailed ... 337
Whydahs 180
Wiener's Waxbill 25
Woodpecker 280
Wood-Swallow Shrikes ... 68

Zebra Finch 90
Zosterops 329

No. 1.

Foreign Bird Notes,

for October, 1901.

6D.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

President: Dr. C. B. d'EYNCOURT CHAMBERLAIN, R.N.

Council:

Mr. H. T. T. CAMPS.	Mr. W. OSBALDESTON.
Dr. d'EYNCOURT CHAMBERLAIN.	Mr. H. B. SMITH.
Mr. C. CUSHNY.	Mr. W. SWAYSLAND.
Mr. W. OAKEY.	Mr. S. M. TOWNSEND.

Scrutineer and Auditor: Mr. J. STOREY,
7, Blenheim Terrace, St. John's Wood, N.W.

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer: Mr. H. R. FILLMER,
52, Ship Street, Brighton.

Subscription: 5/- per annum, due in advance on the 1st of May.

THE OBJECTS OF THE CLUB are, according to the rules, "the promotion of the keeping, breeding, and exhibiting of Foreign Birds and the improvement of Shows in regard to them."

These objects are, at present, chiefly carried out,

1stly. By offering medals for competition among members at the principal Shows.

2ndly. By the publication of "Foreign Bird Notes" sent free to members monthly.

3rdly. By assisting the members (and especially the inexperienced) with advice on all subjects connected with foreign birds.

The Secretary will be pleased to correspond with members, and, when desired, give them his advice. On points of special difficulty he will obtain for members the advice of members of the Council and other experienced aviculturists.

The Club welcomes all interested in Foreign Birds, whether exhibitors or not. Special regard will be had for the requirements of those who are, for various reasons, unable to provide large aviaries for their birds.

All communications relating to the Club, or to "Foreign Bird Notes," should be addressed to

H. R. FILLMER, 52, Ship Street, Brighton.

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SPACE TO LET.

W. SWAYSLAND,

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Foreign Bird Notes,

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THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

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The Club welcomes all interested in foreign birds, whether they keep only a few common birds, or hundreds of rare ones; whether they possess only one or two cages, or spacious aviaries; and whether they are exhibitors, or non-exhibitors. The Rules, and full particulars of the Club, can be obtained from the Secretary on application.

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No. 3.

Foreign Bird Notes,

for December, 1901.

6D.

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SPACE TO LET.

No. 4.

Foreign Bird Notes,

for January, 1902.

6D.

W. SWAYSLAND,

47, QUEEN'S ROAD, BRIGHTON

LATE OF 184, WESTERN ROAD.

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JOHN D. HAMLYN,

NATURALIST,

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No. 5.

Foreign Bird Notes,

for February, 1902.

6D.

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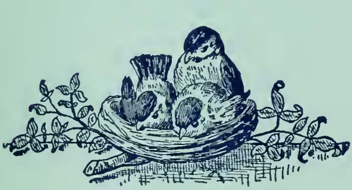

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In consequence of the summer holidays, the August issue of "Bird Notes" will be suspended. No. 6 will therefore be published in September.

No. 5.] [JULY, 1902.

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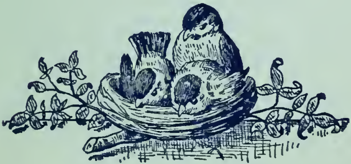

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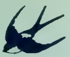
No. 7.] [OCTOBER, 1902.



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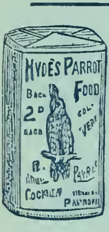
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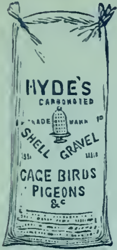
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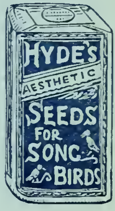
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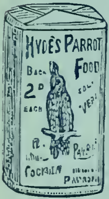
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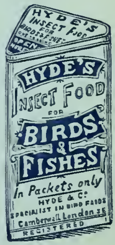
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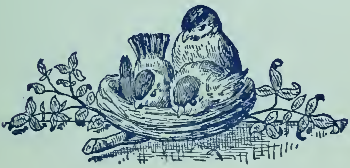

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